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ABSTRACT

This document comprises the three issues of Volume 14 of the "Speak Out for Children" newsletter, published to strengthen families through education and to assist children of unwed parents, separation, and divorce. The Spring 1999 issue contains articles on National Child's Day, joint custody presumptions, changes in children's life and activities from 1981 to 1997, proposed anti-joint custody legislation, and father absence and criminal activity. The Summer-Fall 1999 issue includes articles on the West Virginia shared parenting law, state rankings on the best places to raise children, and children's access to their noncustodial parents. The Winter 1999-2000 issue contains articles on the Fathers Count Act passed by the House of Representatives, the Oklahoma Parentage Act, and the relation between divorce rates and joint custody. Regular features of the newsletter include book reviews, notice of funding opportunities and conferences, news from individual chapters of the organization, descriptions of relevant court cases, and descriptions of pending federal legislation. (KB)

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Children's Rights Council, Inc.

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Vol. 14-No.1

Strengthening Families Through Education And Advocacy

Spring 1999

Attend CRC's 12th Conference
Sept. 22–26, 1999
(See pages 8–10)

ISSN 1042-3559

Assisting Children of Unwed Parents, Separation and Divorce

SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN®

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Children's Rights Council, Inc.
300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002-4389 Phone (202) 547-6227

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U.S. Expected to Observe Child's Day in June

A resolution to create a new national holiday, A National Child's Day, has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Bob Graham (D-FL).

The resolution is expected to be passed and signed by President Clinton by the time you receive this newsletter.

Although previous Congressional resolutions that sought to establish children's day designed the first Sunday in October for the occasion, CRC urged Sen. Graham to place Children's Day on the first Sunday in June.

Some churches around the country already observe Children's Day the first Sunday in June, and in early June, Children's Day is "nestled between Mother's Day and Father's Day," as Sen. Graham said in a letter urging other senators to support creation of the holiday.

June is perfect for picnics, parades, and community and neighborhood activities for children, he noted.

"It is appropriate to think of children in this family context," said CRC Board Chairman John Bauserman, Jr.

More than 100 countries observe Children's Day. The U.S. is one of the few countries that has no such national holiday.

Graham asks U.S. for the First Time to Celebrate Children's Day between Mother's Day and Father's Day

Continued on page 3

Joint Custody Presumptions Increasing in States

According to a 1997 American Bar Association publication, 19 states plus the District of Columbia have some form of presumption for joint custody, either legal, physical, or legal and physical.

In 11 of those states plus D.C., it is a clear presumption for joint custody, in 8 states it is a presumption if both parents agree. The clear presumption states are Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Texas, and the District of Columbia. In some of those states the terms shared parenting (e.g. Florida) or joint managing conservatorship (Texas) are used.

The 8 states where it is a presumption if both parents agree are California, Connecticut, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, Vermont, and Washington.

(CRC considers California to have a presumption for joint custody by practice—that is, because of the history of giving joint custody in a substantial number of cases).

"We are pleasantly surprised to find this rapid growth of the idea that the best parent for children is both parents," said Rick Kuhn, CRC evaluator of research.

"Yet the situation is changing so fast that apparently even the Bar Association has a hard time keeping up," said Kuhn. "CRC's research has located newly passed joint custody statutes in four additional states, bringing the total to 23 states and Washington, D.C. In those states, Alabama, Ohio, Oregon and Tennessee, there is a presumption if both parents agree.

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The CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nation-wide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

CRC works to strengthen families through education and advocacy. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and for parents who are unwed or separated. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for emotional and financial child support. We work to strengthen fragile families of children whose parents are unwed. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in custody reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 32 states and two national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody (MWOC) and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

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U.S. Senator (R-TN)

Children's Day

Continued from page 1

Some people say everyday is Children's Day. "By the same token, every day is Mother's Day and Father's Day," said Bauserman, "but children are so important, a special day should be set aside to acknowledge them."

CRC college student interns assisted Sen. Graham's office in calling and faxing senators, asking them to co-sponsor the resolution. Some CRC members and chapters also assisted by contacting their senators.

The resolution is in the box at right.

Joint Custody

Continued from page 1

"Since CRC began in 1985, we have been one of the nation's strongest advocates of family law that promotes the involvement of both parents in a child's life, regardless of the child's family situation," said CRC President David L. Levy. Presumptions for joint custody (shared parenting) are an important part of child-family friendly law, as Jim Cook, president of the Joint Custody Association, has always said.

"With the 1999 state legislation session, we are close to realizing an important goal: the establishment of joint custody presumptions in the majority of states."

"If things go well, the total could increase again in 1999 and many other states have bills pending at the time of this writing," said Kuhn.

For more information on joint custody in the U.S., see CRC's website: www.vix.com/crc The American Bar Association's publications on state laws regarding joint custody can be found at: www.abanet.org/media/factbooks/cht4.htm.

RESOLUTION

Designating the first Sunday in June *of each calendar year as "National Child's Day."*

Whereas the first Sunday of June falls between Mother's Day and Father's Day;

Whereas each child is unique, a blessing, and holds a distinct place in the family unit;

Whereas the people of the United States should celebrate children as the most valuable asset of the United States;

Whereas the children represent the future, hope, and inspiration of the United States;

Whereas the children of the United States should be allowed to feel that their ideas and dreams will be respected because adults in the United States take the time to listen;

Whereas many children of the United States face crises of grave proportions, especially as they enter adolescent years;

Whereas it is important for parents to spend time listening to their children on a daily basis;

Whereas modern societal and economic demands often pull the family apart;

Whereas, whenever practicable, it is important for both parents to be involved in their child's life;

Whereas encouragement should be give to families to set aside a special time for all family members to engage together in family activities;

Whereas adults in the United States should have an opportunity to reminisce on their youth to recapture some of the fresh insight, innocence, and dreams that they may have lost through the years;

Whereas the designation of a day to commemorate the children of the United States will provide an opportunity to emphasize to children the importance of developing an ability to make the choices necessary to distance themselves from impropriety and to contribute to their communities;

Whereas the people of the United States should emphasize to children the importance of family life, education, and spiritual qualities;

Whereas because children are the responsibility of all people of the United States, everyone should celebrate children, whose questions, laughter, and dreams are important to the existence of the United States; and

Whereas the designation of a day to co*mmemorate the children will emphasize to the people of the United States the importance of the role of the child within the family and society; Now, therefore, be it*

Resolved, That the Senate

(1) designates the first Sunday in June of each year as "National Child's Day"; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Letter to the Editor

Editor:

CRC recently helped me to get joint custody in Kennebec, South Dakota, a rural town with a population of 275 people.

A circuit judge who travels to the county seat of Lyman County, which includes Kennebec, said that even though South Dakota practice says custody of a child of an unwed mother goes to the mother unless the court decides otherwise, he was giving me joint legal and physical custody because I had my son 175 days in 1998. I had this in 1998 because of an agreement with the mother, but the mother later wanted to cut back my access.

I showed my lawyer joint custody materials that CRC had faxed to me, and the lawyer spoke to the judge.

I will continue to have half the time with Gavt, age 4.

I hope to start a CRC chapter in South Dakota.

Quint Garnos
Phone 605/895-2425

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!!News Flashes!!

Access Grants

* A House Committee will hold hearings this year on the access/ visitation grants. If you have trouble obtaining such a grant, or the grants are not being run right in your state, write to Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, Chair, Human Resources Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Committee, Washington, D.C. 20515, and send it to CRC. We will present all letters to her. CRC plans to ask that states be directed to direct more of the grants to non-profit organizations with experience in counseling non-custodial parents. Make that recommendation in your letter, if you agree with it.

Political Action Committee

* Have an impact on the year 2000 Presidential and Congressional elections! Help the Children's PAC, the political action committee that shares CRC ideals. Help the PAC, Help Make it Work! Contact Ann Marini, M.D., and Robert Lipsky, who manage the PAC, at 10408 Hebard Street, Kensington, MD 20895, phone 301/530-9290. Do you know what a difference it would make if we had <u>one</u> member of Congress totally committed to the idea that "The Best Parent is Both Parents?" Help Make it Happen!

Changes in American Children's Time, 1981-1997

By: Sandra L. Hoetferth, Ph.D
Reprinted from The Brown University Child and Adolescent Behavior newsletter

Family life has changed significantly since 1980. In 1997 two-thirds of the mothers of preschool children were working, compared with 47 percent in 1980 and 12 percent in 1950. This is a remarkable number. The employment of mothers of young children has had a major effect on family life, just as the initial movement of men out of the home and into wage employment did at the beginning of the industrial revolution.

In recent research at the University of Michigan, we focused on changes in children's experience of family life over the 16-year plus periods between 1981, when the first such study was conducted, and 1997. Both studies used the same time diary method. The two major findings of our research are that, first, children's free time is increasingly structured. To find out how much free time children had in 1981 and 1997, I summed discretionary time, defined as time not spent in personal car, eating, sleeping and school, and divided by the 168 hours each week. That amounted to 38 percent of a child's week (63 hours) in 1981 and 30 percent (51 hours) in 1997, a 16 percent decline in free time over the past 16 years.

The major causes for this decline are the increased time spent in school, which rose from 21 to 29 hours per week, an increase of eight hours. As could be anticipated, the largest increase was in the time preschool children spent in school or child care; even so, school-age children also spent more time in school, presumably some before- and after-school programs are included by parents in their reports of "school time." An additional increase occurred in personal care time, which is time spent bathing, grooming and so on, but also includes time spent packing up one's possessions or getting ready to go places. Presumably spending more time out of the home entails more time getting ready to go as well.

Meal times also declined between 1981 and 1997, a decline of about an hour per week. This is consistent with increased maternal employment. There was a small, insignificant increase in time spent sleeping.

How Free Time has Changed

Children spent about half of their free time playing and watching television in both 1997 and 1981. Given that free time declined, we would expect declines in most activities. Playing dropped by 25 percent, more than the overall decline in free time, and television viewing declined by slightly less - 13 percent.

Churchgoing declined by 40 percent over the period and outdoors activities such as walking, hiking and camping, declined by about 50 percent.

Finally, household conversations, that is, just sitting and conversing, declined by 10 percent over the period, though again, the initial numbers were small.

Children's time increased in several important activities, particularly sports, visiting, household work and other passive leisure. Sports includes standard team activities such as soccer, baseball, basketball and swimming. The time children spent in sports almost doubled over the periods.

Children participated in a wide variety of scheduled and organized sports activities in 1997. Participation increased equally for girls and boys; still, in 1997 boys spent twice as much time in sports activities as girls.

Visiting increased by 100 percent over the period. This included time

Continued on page 15

Don't Let Congress Tell Children in Your State that they Can't Have Both Parents in their Lives!

Stop the Anti-Joint Custody (Shared Parenting) Resolution!

Read, then Sign Petition to House Speaker Hastert!

Dear CRC Supporter,

We are sending your petitions to House Speaker Hastert asking him to stop an anti-joint custody resolution

We are sending your petitions to House Speaker Hastert asking him to stop an anti-joint custody resolution

We need your help to stop an anti-joint custody resolution that has been re-introduced in Congress this year. Please sign the letter we will deliver to House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, asking the House to oppose Sec. 241 of H.R. 357 (the Violence Against Women Act).

Sec. 241 is a resolution that asks the states to "have a presumption that children shall have their main physical residence with their primary caretaker parent unless that parent is unfit."

To include this resolution in the Violence Against Women Act is a clever and indirect way to abolish joint custody, because we are all against violence against women, but we realize that we can protect women and society without abolishing shared parenting.

Please sign the letter and mail it right away because it is dangerous for Congress to ask the states to go back to primary caretaker, sole custody laws. That would mean an abolition of joint custody statutes everywhere!

All the efforts we have made advancing the right of a child to have two parents whenever possible could be lost overnight if the states heed such a sole custody resolution from Congress.

Please sign the letter to Speaker Hastert and mail it to CRC, so we can walk into the Speaker's office with a big stack of such letters to really make an impression!

All of us must work together to defeat this resolution, because children need their dads and their moms whenever possible to help them do well, to avoid crime and drugs, and to achieve their goals. So please sign this letter right now! And it is important to have others sign it, too!

Now please let us tell you what else is happening. This same resolution was introduced last year, and you and I helped to defeat it once. But it is back again. And the sponsors actually say in the Resolution that it is in the child's "best interest" to have a "primary caretaker." You and I know that children generally do better when they have <u>both</u> parents in their lives!

We have another chance to defeat this resolution if we flood Speaker Hastert with your letters.

As you can see, we are right in the middle of things. It is more important than ever to work together. That's why I thought I might ask you to please send a contribution to CRC. If you are not a member, join for $35. If you are a member, please renew for $35. Consider a contribution in any amount to CRC to help us in this effort to continue to educate our lawmakers and the public that "The Best for Children is Both Parents." Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
David L. Levy, Esq.President,
CRC

Rebecca Roberts-Malamis, Esq.
Legislative Director

We need to hear from you. Please sign this important petition, and send it to CRC, so we can forward it with other petitions to House Speaker Hastert.

Please sign this petition to Speaker Hastert today!

Please sign the enclosed letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert. Fax it to CRC at 202-546-4272, or mail it to CRC at 300 "I" Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Please fax or mail your membership or renewal of $35, and a contribution in any amount.

If you cannot renew now for $35 for one year, sign the petition to Speaker Hastert anyway, so we can deliver him a big stack of letters! Thank you.

See petition on following page.

Correction

In the Winter issue, we misspelled the name of John Schulte, the Ohio father who is trying to locate the whereabouts of his children under the Federal Parent Locator Act.

We thank Bladen Lithographics Inc. in Gaithersburg, MD for providing printing services to CRC.

CRC and our chapters need grant and proposal writers.

RETURN THIS ENTIRE SHEET TO
Children's Rights Council
300 I Street N.E., Suite 401
Washington, D.C. 20002

PETITION TO THE SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PLEASE DON'T CUT OFF CHILDREN FROM THEIR PARENTS!

The Undersigned Hereby Petitions the House of Representatives to Stop Sec. 241 of H.R. 357, which asks the States to abolish their joint custody (shared parenting) statutes!

Speaker of the House
J. Dennis Hastert
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

I ask you to stop an anti-joint custody resolution that is Sec. 241 of H.R. 357 (the Violence Against Women Act).

Sec. 241 is a resolution that would ask the states to "have a presumption that children shall have their main physical residence with their primary caretaker parent unless that parent is unfit."

To include this resolution in the Violence Against Women Act is a clever and indirect way to abolish joint custody. We all strongly oppose violence against women, but we realize that we can protect women and society without abolishing shared parenting.

Please don't cut children off from their parents! Children need their dads and their moms whenever possible to help them do well, to avoid crime and drugs, and to achieve their goals.

Please have the House of Representatives stop Sec. 241. Thank you on behalf of children and families across this great country.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

_____

Date _____

I have signed the above letter. Detach and deliver it to House Speaker Hastert.

I wish to support our efforts to defeat this resolution and to continue our other important efforts. I would like to join or renew for $35. after my expiration date.

Here is an additional contribution of _____

Or charge my Visa _____ MC _____ AMEX _____ a total of $ _____.

Card # _____ Exp. date _____

My membership # (see back of newsletter) _____

Fax this sheet to CRC at 202-546-4272 for quicker action.

___ I cannot or am not able to join, renew, or contribute at this time, but send my signed letter to Speaker Hastert anyway.

Permission is hereby granted to reproduce the petition with or without credit to CRC. We strongly urge you to reproduce it and return it to CRC, for presentation of many petitions to Speaker Hastert. Be sure to get your family and friends to sign. More copies of the petition are available from CRC. We appreciate your financial support to enable CRC to continue its work. Make your check or credit card payment to CRC and send to 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002, or fax credit card contribution to 202-546-4272. ***Or make a contribution to the CRC chapter in your state.***

Levy

The CRC View

by David L. Levy

How You Can Obtain Government Funding to Help Children Obtain Access to Both Parents

CRC has advocated since its inception in 1985 laws and attitudes that focus on the need of a child for two parents, rather than cloaking issues around the needs of "mothers and children." Or "fathers' rights."

Congress and the White House are ready to invest billions of dollars in programs to reconnect fathers to their families, and while CRC expects good things to come of that, we see a danger in just focusing on fathers comparable to the past 30 year political focus just on mothers.

It is CRC's hope that the pendulum will swing to the middle, where the trinity of "mother, father and children" will be seen as the ideal family structure for most children. And public policy will be based on encouraging that trinity.

But first, perhaps, America has to rediscover the importance of fathers to children. And that is what is happening today.

The questions being asked are: where should the billions of dollars about to be spent go? To programs aimed at getting fathers to marry? To efforts to make child support enforcement "kinder and gentler"? To job-training and employment programs so fathers can financially support their children?

These are the questions raised at a March 24-25, 1999 conference on "The Politics of Fatherhood," sponsored by the National Center for Strategic Non-Profit Planning and Community Leadership (NPCL) and the Howard University School of Schools of Divinity and Social Work.

NPCL focuses mainly to help "fragile families"—low income, unmarried parents.

The hit of the conference, in my view, was Ron Mincy, who heads a branch of the Ford Foundation that created NPCL, and which has "deep pockets" it is investing in fatherhood issues.

Mincy noted that fatherhood is now on the top of the radar screen for political leaders, but that it might not be at the top of the screen three years from now.

He noted that the research and thinking on the issue of fatherhood is so new, and so many groups have varying ideas, that it is not clear what should be recommended. Or what works!

One solution, said Mincy, is to connect child-support efforts to local fatherhood groups and use amnesty programs and job opportunities to get men reattached to work and their children.

Other speakers at the conference tied single parenthood to the volatile "gender relations" among black men and women, and their ambivalence about marriage.

These behaviors, plus the "virtual silence of black women" on what they want the fathers to do, have to be addressed before real progress can be made, said Mincy.

Fatherhood groups shouldn't delay in their push for government money, added Mincy. "Harness the resources now, before fatherhood gets pushed off the political agenda.".

CRC's view on spending the billions—for which we wish input from you, CRC members, is:

▲ What Mincy says—to connect unwed fathers to their children, the children's mother, and jobs;

▲ Encourage marriage, which is what Wade Horn's National Fatherhood Initiative strongly favors;

▲ Don't forget the 18 million children of divorce, the 2 million non-custodial mothers, and the 12 million non-custodial fathers.

The access grants provided by Congress show that reaching out with programs that work such as parenting education, mediation, and neutral drop-off and pick-up of children centers can help connect children to their divorced and separated parents.

Strengthening of family life is the common element of all the above ideas.

The long and the short of it is that one size does not fit all. If there are billions to be spent, there is enough money to go around for all of the above purposes, and then some, as we evaluate "what works" best for children and families.

If you are part of a group, start to run a program, such as a "Hotline" for parents, or a neutral drop-off site for children.

If your group doesn't have its 501 (c) (3) status, get it! Call CRC for information. Network with other parenting groups in your community. Be a part of the action! Help point in what direction those billions will go!

CRC on the Internet

Bruce Kaskubar, CRC coordinator in Minnesota; Rick Kuhn, CRC evaluator of research in Maryland; and Serge Prengel, CRC of New York City, maintain CRC's site on the Internet Worldwide Web. The CRC site can be reached at http://www.vix.com/crc/ Rick Kuhn reports that the CRC website is getting more than 1,000 hits (inquiries) a month.

Bruce's e-mail is dBrucek@deskmedia.com; Rick's is Kuhn1@aol.com and Serge's is Serge@MissionCreative.com.

Mike Oddenino, CRC's General Counsel, has a new website. It can be reached at www.oandglaw.com (correction from last issue)

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"Keeping Children First in the 21st Century"

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites - Old Towne Alexandria

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- Our chapters need computers.

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BOOKS FOR KIDS

NEW!

I Love You More Than..., by Elizabeth Hickey and James Cohen. Illustrated by Lynda Smart Brown, 1998.
HB252 ---------- $16.95

How to Survive Your Parent's Divorce: Kids Advice to Kids, by Gayle Kimball, 1994. Easy-to-read one-of-a-kind guide for young people and their parents as they reshape their lives post-divorce.
SB-112 ---------- *Discount Price $4.00

I Think Divorce Stinks, by Marcia Lebowitz, 1992. Helps children recognize that it is appropriate to have negative feelings about divorce and to express those feelings.
SB-2012 ---------- *Discount Price $2.00

Questions from Dad, by Dwight Twilley, 1994. An effective way to develop better relationships between children and their parents.
HB-240 ---------- *Discount Price $7.00

What am I Doing in a Stepfamily?, by Claire Berman, 1994. A children's book explaining how two families can be better than one.
SB-307 ---------- $12.00

It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear, by Vicki Lansky, 1998. Koko Bear can help children understand divorce and sends a good message.
SB-308 ---------- $5.99

The Divorce Workbook, by Sally Ives, David Fassler & Michelle Lasch, 1985 How to facilitate honest and open communication between adults and children at the traumatic time of separation and divorce. Q and A for kids.
SB-2010 ---------- *Discount Price $6.00

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

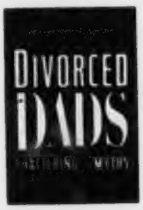
50/50 Parenting, by Gayle Kimball, Ph.D. Almost 300 co-parents and 83 children report on life in Married, Divorced, and Step-family situations.
SB-113 ---------- $9.95

The Adult Children of Divorce Workbook, by Mary Hirschfeld, 1992. Visualization exercises help readers root our destructive feelings left over from their childhood.
SB-2009 ---------- *Discount Price $5.00

Divorce Book for Parents, by Vicki Lansky, 1987. Warmly supportive and reassuring, this comprehensive guide speaks to all divorced and divorcing parents.
HB-204 ---------- *Discount Price $9.00

The Divorce Decisions Workbook, by Margorie Engel, 1992. Planning and action guide with 55 formulas to help you in four key decision areas:financial, legal, practical, and emotional.
SB-2006 ---------- *Discount Price $7.00

NEW!



Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths, by Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., 1998. The surprising truth about fathers, children and divorce.
HB-250 ---------- $24.95

For the Sake of the Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, 1992. Discusses how to share your children with your ex-spouse despite your anger. Kline is CRC's Florida coordinator. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
HB-216 ---------- *Discount Price $9.00

The Good Divorce, by Constance R. Ahrons, Ph.D., 1994. An outstanding book with a powerful message: while divorce is not 'good,' there is a path to a 'good divorce' where parents cooperate fully for the sake of their children.
HB-2001 ---------- $23.00

Helping Your Children through Divorce, Florence Bienenfeld, Ph.D.,1995. A resource book depicting the impact of divorce on children.
SB-201A ---------- *Discount Price $7.00

A Hole in My Heart, by Claire Berman, 1991. A book that will enable adult children of divorce to recognize the role they play in changing patterns in their lives.
SB-225 ---------- *Discount Price $8.00

The Joint Custody Handbook, by Miriam Cohen, 1991. A 1991 update of one of the classic books on joint custody. Contains sample parenting agreements. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
HB-213 ---------- $10.95

Families Apart, by Melinda Blau, 1993. 10 Keys to Successful Co-Parenting. A blend of the author's own research, and that of other experts, and rich in anecdotal information.
SB-223A ---------- *Discount Price $10.00
HB-223B ---------- *Discount Price $18.00

Loving and Listening, by Melinda Blau, 1996. A Parent's Book of Daily Inspirations for Rebuilding the Family After Divorce
SB-235 ---------- *Discount Price $10.00

REVISED!

Mom's House, Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., 1998. Making shared custody work: How parents can make two homes for their children after divorce. 100 **New** pages to this classic book!

SB-202 ---------- **$20.00**

Negotiating Love: How Women and Men Can Resolve Their Differences, by Riki Robbins Jones, 1995. Points our destructive habits by both genders which, when realized, strengthen families and relationships.

SB-246 ---------- ***Extra Low Price*** **$3.00**

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Surviving Divorce, by Paula Weintraub and Terry Hillman, 1996.

SB-286 ---------- **$16.95**

Putting Kids First, by Michael Oddenino. A must read for caring parents and professionals, by CRC's General Counsel. Includes a children's bill of rights.

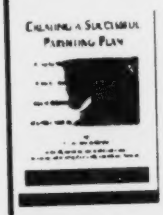
SB-248 ---------- **$9.95**

Second Chances, by Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, 1989. Based on ten year longitudinal study of the effects of divorce on adults and children.

HB-22 ---------- ***Discount Price** **$8.00**

Surviving the Break-Up, How Children and Parents Cope with Divorce, by Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D and Joan Kelly, Ph.D., 1980. A classic that is still valid in discussing the problems of children being raised by single parents.

SB-220 ---------- ***Discount Price** **$10.00**



NEW!

Creating a Successful Parenting Plan, by Dr. A. Jayne Major. Nationally acclaimed author of "Breaththrough Parenting" and "Winning the Custody War Without Casualties"

SB-280 ---------- **$24.95**

3 Steps to a Strong Family, by Linda and Richard Eyre, 1994. A 3-step program that can make your family life happier, less stressful, and more rewarding.

HB-281 ---------- **$19.50**

Familyhood: Nurturing the Values that Matter, by Dr. Lee Salk, 1992. A practical, inspiring guide to communicating values.

HB-282 ---------- **$21.00**

The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century, the CRC book edited by David L. Levy. Order bulk copies (10 or more) for only $4 a copy, resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies will continue to be available from CRC for $10 each, plus $4 for postage, as long as supplies last. If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names).

SB-282 **Order 10 copies or more each only $4.00**
Individual copies $10.00

Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce, by M. Gary Neuman, L.M.H.C. 1996. This book is based on the nationally renowned "Sandcastles" workshop.

HB-284 ---------- **$25.00**

Joint Custody: An Alternative for Divorcing Families, by Mel Morgenbesser and Nadine Nehls, 1981. A guidebook for parents about summer camp and education through travel.

HB-285 ---------- ***Reduced price** **$5.00**

BOOKS FOR STEPARENTS

How to Win as a Stepfamily, by Emily Visher, Ph.D. and John Visher, M.D., 1982. The co-founders of the Stepfamily Association of America answer questions and give suggestions on how to make stepfamilies work.

HB-301 ---------- **$13.95**

Making it as a Stepparent, New Roles/New Rules, by Claire Berman, 1986. Former president of the Stepfamily Association of America provides practical help and insights.

SB-304 ---------- **$7.95**

Stepfamilies Stepping Ahead, edited by Mala Burt for the Stepfamily Association of America.

SB-303 ---------- **$9.95**

BOOKS FOR GRANDPARENTS

Grandparents, by Dr. Ruth Westheimer (Dr. Ruth). Includes a 20-page chapter on divorce.

SB-393 ---------- **$22.00**

BOOKS FOR SINGLE PARENTS

At My Father's Wedding: Reclaiming our True Masculinity, by John Lee, 1991. A ground-breaking work about the Father Wound and the pain a child can bear because of it.

HB-242 ---------- ***Extra Low Price*** **$2.00**

Surviving Divorce—Women's Resources After Separation, by Mavis Maclean, 1991. Women coping with earnings, maintenance and welfare in the U.S., France, and Great Britain.

HB-819 ---------- ***Discount Price** **$5.00**

The Liberated Man, by Warren Farrell, 1993. Reveals what every woman needs to know about men and what every man needs to know about himself.

SB-244 ---------- ***Discount Price** **$3.00**

The Daddy Track and the Single Father, by Geoffery L. Greif, 1990. A book about successfully coping with kids, housework, a job, an ex-wife, a social life, and the courts.

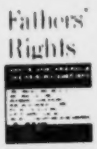
HB-642 ---------- **$19.95**

Money-Smart Divorce. What Women Need to Know about Money and Divorce, by Esther M. Berger, 1996.
SB-251 ---------- **$22.00**

New!
Still a Dad, The Divorced Father's Journey, by CRC's own Serge Prengel, 1998. Published with praise from Warren Farrell, Karen DeCrow, and James A. Cook.
SB 252 ---------- **$13.95**

The Myth of Male Power, by Warren Farrell, 1993. Rock solid and authentic decimation of the myth of male advantage ...sweeps aside stereotyped assumptions to uncover a deeper truth.
SB-245 ---------- ***Discount Price $6.00**

Why Men Are the Way They Are, by Warren Farrell, 1986. Provides insights into loved one's secret insights and desires.
SB-243 ---------- ***Discount Price $3.00**



Fathers' Rights, by Jeffrey Leving. A best-selling book for fathers who want to maintain contact with their children.
SB-640 ---------- **$12.50**

The Divorced Parent: Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston, 1994. Provides practical advice and specific tools for raising well-adjusted children.
HB-643 ---------- **$21.00**

Father's Day, by Bill McCoy, 1995. Witty and wise notes from a new dad in the real world.
HB-644 ---------- **$22.00**

Like Father, Like Son, By Hunter S. Fulghum, 1996. A collection of stories on being a man at midlife in America, with introduction by Robert Fulghum.
HB-645 ---------- **$21.95**

Child Custody Made Simple, by Webster Watnik, 1997. Answers all your questions about child custody and child support for a single parent.
SB-641 ---------- **$21.95**

The Single Parent's Money Guide, by Emily Card, 1996. A plan for managing your money when you are the only one your family can count on.
SB-646 ---------- **$14.95**

MEDIATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Family Evaluations in Child Custody, Mediation, Arbitration and Litigation, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1989. In this update, Gardner proposes a three-phase system to remove child custody evaluations from courtroom litigation.
HB-603 ---------- **$35.00**

Healing Hearts, Helping Children and Adults Recover from Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, M.S.W., CRC's National Parent Education Director, and Elizabeth Dalton, attorney and mediator
HB-615 ---------- **$15.00**

Between Love and Hate, A Guide to Civilized Divorce, by Lois Gold, M.S.W., 1992. Learn the fundamental skills of negotiation conflict resolution and mediation, for everyone's good.
SB-605A ---------- ***Discount Price $9.00**

LEGAL ISSUES

A Family Divided, by Robert Mendelson, 1997. A discussion of a divorced father's struggle with the child custody industry.
HB-762 ---------- **$21.00**

The Custody Revolution, by Richard Warshak, 1992. The Father Factor and the Motherhood Mystique.
HB-702 ---------- ***Discount Price $15.00**

The Fathers Emergency Guide to Divorce/Custody Battle, A Tour Through the Predatory World of Judges, Lawyers, Psychologists and Social Workers in the Subculture of Divorce, by Robert Seidenberg, with the legal insights of Williams Dawes, Esq., 1997.
SB-247 ---------- **$15.00**

PARENTAL KIDNAPPING

The Parental Alienation Syndrome, A guide for mental health and legal professionals, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. An authoritative work on the Parental Alienation Syndrome .
SB-1004 ---------- **$30.00**

When Parents Kidnap, by Geoffrey Greif and Rebecca Hegar, 1993. This book captures the experiences of parents searching for their children and abductors who have taken them; also makes public policy recommendations.
HB-901 ---------- **$22.95**

CHILD ABUSE

Ashes to Ashes...Families to Dust, by Dean Tong, 1996. False Accusations of Child Abuse: A Roadmap for survivors which helps to answer their questions.
SB-2014 ---------- **$15.95**

Children Held Hostage: Dealing with programmed and brainwashed children, by Stanley Clawar, Ph.D. and Brynne Rivlin, M.M.S., 1991. Published by the ABA's Section for Family Law, this book discusses a 12-year study of programming and brainwashing during custody battles.
SB-1003 ---------- **$45.00**

Protocols for Sex Abuse Evaluations, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. Presents a new series of criteria and interview sequences to help examiners involvedin sex abuse evaluations.
HB-1007 ---------- **$39.95**

Recognizing Child Abuse and **Combating Child Abuse**, A comprehensive guide to recognizing, preventing, and handling child abuse and neglect, by a resident scholar of the American Enterprise Institute. (both books by Douglas Besharov, Ph.D.)

SB-1006 ——— ***Discount Price $12.00**
HB-1008 ——— ***Discount Price $20.00**

The Book of David, How Preserving Families Can Cost Children's Lives, by Richard Gelles 1996. A convincing and dramatic book about the flaws of the child welfare system.

HB-1022 ——— **$23.00**

Suggestions of Abuse, by Michael D. Yapko, Ph.D. 1994. A book about true and false memories of childhood sexual trauma.

HB-1023 ——— **$22.00**

True and False Accusations of Child Sex Abuse, by Richard A. Gardner,1992. A guide for legal and mental health professionals.

HB-1024 ——— **$45.00**

VIDEOS

Children: The Experts on Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, MSW 1994. The children speak from their own experience of going through their parents' divorce. A CRC-award winning video prepared by CRC's National Parent Education Director.

V-902 ——— **$25.00**

The Sensible Approach To Divorce, prepared by Wyandotte County, Kansas officials. A CRC-award winning program in Kansas that shows parents how they can both be fully involved in children's lives post-divorce.

V-903 ——— **$15.00**

Don't Forget The Children, by the Dallas, Texas Association of Young Lawyers. A CRC award-winning video that provides information on co-parenting in the event of divorce.

V-904 ——— **$20.00**

The Family After Divorce: Restoring the Family Fabric, by Phoebe Snover Prosky, MSW. (25.00). The program described in this video has helped many children of divorce.

V-905 ——— **$15.00**

Psychotherapeutic & Legal Approaches To Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. An in-depth discussion of ways that parents can alienate the child against the other parent.

V-906 ——— **$25.00**

AUDIOTAPES

By noted author Warren Farrell

Why Men Are the Way They Are
A-310 ——— **$ 8.00**

Understanding Each Other (set of two tapes)
A-311 ——— **$ 8.00**

The Myth of Male Power
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Complete set of Warren Farrell tapes
A-113 ——— **$20.00**

REPORTS

New!
A list of statutes and major cases on joint custody in all 50 states. Prepared by Ray Meiers of CRC of Ohio, updated to August, 1998. Excellent 20-page nationwide compilation reference guide. Available on disc (microsoft word) or hard copy.

R110 ——— **$10.00**

UPDATED 1997, Interference with Access (Visitation) as a Tort. Not a frequent remedy, but one that may be available.

R116 ——— **$10.00**

PINS AND BUTTONS

The famous "Children First" pin. 8 colors, with figures of seven children standing on a field of green with logo "Children First." Two prongs. 3/4" high, 1 1/2" wide.

P101 ——— **$8.00**

Button created by Patti Diroff that says "Child support is more than a check, it's being a parent." With CRC logo, including children's faces. 4 colors, round, 2 1/4" diameter.

B202 ——— **$2.00**

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Two Parents are Still Better Than One

By Kathleen Parker
December 21, 1998
Orlando Sentinel nationally syndicated columnist
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Wouldn't you like to wake up one day and see the headline: "Two-parent families make dramatic comeback."

In good news this week: The number of single fathers with children at home has increased by 25 percent in the past three years.

That's also the bad news.

It's good news because the numbers seem to suggest that courts are beginning to recognize that fathers are parents, too. For too long, mothers automatically were awarded custody of children and fathers were mere "visitors" to their kids.

It's bad news because when one parent has custody, regardless of whether it's the mom or dad, the other is essentially missing from the child's life. Children don't prefer one parent over the other, except when they're working on a deal, such as figuring out which one is more likely to let them see "Psycho." Generally, they like having both parents around.

A better news item would be that shared custody arrangements have increased 25 percent. Or even better, that divorce rates are plummeting. Wouldn't you like to wake up one day and see the headline: "Two-parent families make dramatic comeback." Or, "More children than ever are enjoying two-parent households."

Until we change in more fundamental ways, divorce isn't going away. Nor is our absurd notion that single-parenting is just another lifestyle option. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the increase in single-dad households is a function of both divorce and the solo-parenting "choice," as well as adoption agencies' willingness to consider single people, gay and straight, as parents. Of men heading single-parent households today, 35 percent have never been married.

In 1970, according to the report, about one in 10 single parents were fathers. In 1998, it's one in six. The number of single-parent families headed by fathers has grown in the past three years from 1.7 million to 2.1 million. By comparison, 9.8 million mothers head single-parent households. Overall, single-parent families constitute 27 percent of all families.

Fathers groups, which have fought hard for equality in the custody battle, are celebrating the new figures. Demographers are boasting the breakdown of sexism.

Feminists say this trend ultimately will help women.

All probably true. Men have been disenfranchised and children hurt by the courts' tendency to award sole custody to mothers.

Preferential treatment to women is sexist. And single mothers usually suffer both financially and emotionally from the burden of trying to raise children alone.

But one hardly feels like breaking out the Cold Duck. Children are still hurt by the absence of a parent.

No matter how swell we are individually, two parents are better than one. No matter how technologically advanced (or strange) we become, the original blueprint calls for two parents. Male and female. Mom and Dad.

I realize that's an unpopular notion these days. We don't like to deny people their happiness, however they may define it, and above all we don't like to judge. Two men want to have a baby? Why not? A teen-ager outgrows her teddy bear and wants a real baby to love? Well, deary, it's better than abortion.

A professional woman's bio-clock is out of batteries so she swings by the sperm bank on her way home from work? You go girl!

But ask a child what he wants and he'll tell you: a mother and a father. Meanwhile, studies show that despite anecdotal successes, children reared in single-parent homes are at greater risk for getting in trouble, suffering emotional problems or dropping out of school.

It should go without saying that not everyone gets what they want -death and necessary divorce happen-but at least we should hesitate before celebrating advances that merely make awful situations less awful rather than better. Better would be to reverse the trend away from single-parenthood toward the ideal of whole families, including a mother and a father.

Parker's e-mail address is kparker@kparker.com

Changes in Family Time Means More Passive Activities

Continued from page 4

spent on the telephone talking with friends. One puzzling finding was that time in household work more than doubled between 1981 and 1997. Finally, consistent with the conclusion that there has been an increase in structure in children's lives, we see that the time children spend in other passive leisure - going to shows and sports events at which the child is a spectator and not a participant - increased five-fold. In 1981, children spent one-half hour in other passive leisure; that figure was three hours and six minutes in 1997.

Implications

We recognize that families are a lot busier today; with two parents working and children in their own activities, even children need their own personal organizer. Family life requires very tight scheduling. The food preparation industry is a fast growing segment of the work force, with carry-out and restaurant food substituting for home-cooked meals. Families may spend time running back and forth to stores rather than making goods at home.

This is reflected in the increased time children spend in household work, the largest chunk of which is explained as

Continued on page 17

Family Facts

Divorce Lawyers Rank Top 10 Mistakes Parents Make with Children During Divorce

Denigrating the other spouse in front of the children is the biggest mistake parents make with children during divorce, followed closely by using children as a messenger and interfering with visitation, according to a survey of the nation's top divorce and family law attorneys.

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML), at its Annual Meeting in Chicago, November 12, 1998, ranked the 10 top mistakes parents with children make during divorce. Some 200 members participated.

"It is imperative that divorcing parents put their children before their legal battles. It's important for parents to remember that their actions during divorce can have long-term consequences. Children are part mom and part dad and need both parents in their lives," according to Mike McCurley of Dallas, the Academy's president.

In order of frequency, the biggest mistakes parents make during divorce are:

1. Denigrating the other spouse.
2. Using the child as a messenger.
3. Interfering with visitation rights.
4. Sharing intimate details of the other spouse's infidelity, behavior.
5. Failing to pay child support / adequately supporting the children.
6. Immediately introducing the child to the parent's new love interest.
7. Moving the child as far away as possible from the other parent.
8. Listening to the child's conversations with the other parent.
9. Having the child read all the legal pleadings or having them contact the attorney.
10. Having the child request money from the other spouse.

Regarding allegations of child sexual abuse, most attorneys felt such allegations were true less than 50 percent of the time. They were fairly well divided on how good a job the courts were doing in sorting out the truthful from untruthful allegations.

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers is composed of the nation's top 1,500 matrimonial attorneys who are recognized experts in the specialized field of matrimonial law, including divorce, prenuptial agreements, legal separation, annulment, custody, property valuation and division, support and the rights of unmarried cohabitors.

The purpose of the Academy is to encourage the study, improve the practice, elevate the standards and advance the cause of matrimonial law.

The Academy publishes a free book, "Stepping Back from Anger: Protecting Your Children During Divorce. Order from the Academy at 312/263-6477.

Editor's note: We would like our readers to point out the Top 10 mistakes lawyers make for the next issue of "Speak Out for Children." Send to CRC, we will compile, and send to the Academy.

Divorce More Negative for Children Than Death of a Parent

Jerusalem - Children of divorced parents are seven times more likely to suffer from depression in adult life than people of similar age and background whose parents have not divorced, says a psychiatric study on factors leading to depression.

The Israeli study indicates that the loss of a parent through divorce is more likely to cause depression than loss through death. And separation from a mother or from both parents, whether through divorce or desertion, was more likely to cause depression than separation only from a father.

Researchers Bernard Lerer and Ofer Agid of the Biological Psychiatric Unit of Hadassah Hospital focused on children whose parents divorced before the child was 9.

They examined 231 patients from Jerusalem's Herzog, Talbiyeh and Eitanim psychiatric hospitals and matched them with 170 people in a control group that was drawn from the local community.

This doesn't mean children of divorce are doomed to depression in later life. The researchers emphasize that divorce was a factor in depression only among about 30% of patients in the study, and that only a minority of children experiencing divorce suffer from depression.

From article by Matthew Kalman in USA Today, February 7, 1999

Father Absence Linked to Children's Criminal Activity

by Maggie Gallagher
excerpted with permission from a Universal Press Syndicate column
November 27, 1998

Young men raised in disrupted families were 200 percent more likely to end up incarcerated than men who lived in intact families.

Is father absence itself the cause of crime, or is it merely the poverty and racial inequality single-parent families experience? Is divorce more or less damaging than unwed parenthood? And did remarriage hurt or help?

To answer questions like these, researchers Sara McLanahan and Susan Harper followed more than 6,000 young men through their crime-prone years, from their teens up through their early 30s. They controlled for race, education, income, urban residence and even cognitive ability.

The results? Young men raised in disrupted families were 200 percent more likely to end up incarcerated than men who lived in intact families.

The effects of father absence seem to be addictive: Each year spent in a broken family increased the odds of incarceration by 5 percent. Boys whose families divorced during their teen years were about 1.5 times more likely to be incarcerated, while boys raised by unwed mothers (who mostly never lived with their fathers) were about 2.5 times as likely to end up jailed.

Boys with stepfathers were on average almost three times more likely to end up in prison than boys in intact families. In fact, note the authors, "The odds for youths from stepparent families are similar to those from youths who do not live with any parents." Sadly, it looks as if when single mothers marry a new partner (again, on average), a boy does not typically so much gain a father as lose a mother.

These new findings confirm an old truth: The moral choices parents make, about having sex and raising children outside of an intact marriage, affect not only their own children's life chances, they affect all of us.

And yet we are doing a pathetically poor job of passing on a firm marriage ethic to the next generation: According to the Census Bureau, a shocking 44 percent of first births are now outside of marriage. If this continues, almost half of American young women who become mothers will do so, for the first time, without being married.

This is surely one of our most pressing social problems.

Changes in Children's Time Means Less Talking with Parents

Continued from page 15

time children spend accompanying parents on errands and shopping trips rather than traditional chores and cleanup.

Consequences

As the present generation of children moves into young adulthood, we may see the consequences in terms of their expectations of home and family life. Certainly, we are seeing in the overwhelming enrollments of young women in colleges and universities that women will be involved in careers in the future. Society will continue to adapt.

Television time has not gone up; in fact, it has declined, though not by as much as the overall decline in free time. Television is a passive activity that, overall, has a small but statistically significant impact on children's reading achievement test scores. On the down side, the total time spent reading - only about one hour per week - has not changed over the period. Of the activities we examined, reading is the activity that is associated with better reading comprehension and, therefore, with future success in school and life. While studying increased by 50 percent between 1981 and 1997, the total hours children spend studying is still small, only about two hours per week. In addition, studying is not necessarily associated with doing better in school because children who study more include those who are having school problems.

Finally, we did not find that children who spend less time playing at home necessarily do worse on tests of verbal or math achievement or have more behavior problems. Children may be playing in their preschool programs or have some free time at school. Thus, this study provides only a partial picture of children's time.

In addition, we found no evidence that mothers who work outside the home are neglecting their children. A difference of only three hours per week in direct parental engagement with children was found in two-parent families with an employed mother compared to two-parent families in which the mother was not employed.

There is one cautionary note. We found that children who spend fewer hours eating meals have higher levels of aggressive behavior problems than those who spend more hours eating meals. We do not yet know, of course, which comes first; however, meal time is an important time when children and parents can find out what happened over the day.

This is not the only time children and parents spend talking, but since just sitting and talking as the main activity also declined dramatically between 1981 and 1997, there may be a basis for concern.

We will be conducting additional analyses over the next few years and conducting a second wave of data collection on these same children and their families in the year 2001. For more information on the Child Development Supplement to the Panel Study of Income dynamics or to order a copy of our reports please visit our web sit at www.isr.umich/src/child-development/home.html.

Around the Country

West Virginia Almost Gets Strong Shared Parenting Law

Effort foiled by Governor Underwood

The Governor of West Virginia, Cecil Underwood, saying he likes joint custody and mediation, but dislikes establishment of a proposed elected family court, vetoed a presumption for shared parenting that had been overwhelming passed by the West Virginia legislature.

West Virginia has long been a bastion for sole custody, and supporters of shared parenting plan to try again next year.

"The attempt is to duplicate post-divorce what occurred pre-divorce," said House Judiciary Chairman Rick Staton, a strong supporter of the bill.

Ginger Thompson lead advocacy efforts to help give West Virginia children moms and dads.

For example, "if one parent always took the kid to Little League practices before (the divorce) that doesn't mean now that stops just because it's not their weekend," Staton said.

The new law would have mandated parents to attend parent education classes, and then sit down and work out a shared parenting plan.

If the parents couldn't work out a plan, they would have been required to participate in professional mediation. And if that didn't work, then court.

Separated parents would have been primarily affected, but people already divorced would have had one year to ask the court to work out a new co-parenting plan. It was unclear whether the proposal applied to unwed parents.

The bill also provided for a new financial child support formula that Staton said was more fair to middle class parents.

Whereas relocation by one parent in the past was easy, relocation was expected to be harder to obtain under the new law, because parents who wish to relocate would have to come to the court with a new parenting plan, and show that the move is for a "legitimate purpose," and not to frustrate the access of the child to the other parent.

The proposed law also provided make-up of missed visitation, and civil penalties of a fine of $100 for the first offense, $500 for the second offense, and $1,000 for the third offense of interference with access (visitation). Interference could also have been grounds for changing the "allocation of responsibilities."

"The bill would have done away with the presumption that the parent who is the primary caregiver gets custody," said Ginger Thompson of Charleston, the president of the West Virginia Alliance for Two Parents.

The proposal also created a system of elected family law judges to hear domestic relations cases.

"We had effective, genuine lobbying efforts of several grass roots, including grandparents' groups and fathers' groups, coming together under the Alliance, and making a sensible argument," said Thompson, explaining the surprising strong legislative vote in favor of the bill. "And we picked up some press support."

When there was a stalemate between the West Virginia House and Senate over two versions of the bill, Governor Underwood, a Republican, assisted in resolving the process. But he vetoed the final product, saying domestic violence groups lobbied against the legislation Supporters said domestic violence victims were protected under the bill.

Richard Neely exercised a heavy influence against joint custody when he was a longtime member of the West Virginia Supreme Court and its chief justice. Neely is now in private law practice in Charleston.

"Times have changed," said Thompson.

Thompson got involved because her "significant other" has had difficulty for three years in obtaining adequate access to his five-year old son. His former wife said she did not have to give him more access, and that the state was not going to change the law for him. "Well, the legislature did," said Thompson, "and we are going to stay at it."

Write to your state legislators asking them to pass a similar law in your state.

Colorado Allocates Parental Responsibilities

Two years ago, Colorado passed legislation for enforcement of parenting time, meaning that courts are required to expedite requests for enforcement of parenting time, by fines, bonds, and make-up of visitation.

Now, as of February 1, 1999, all references to custody of minor children have been deleted from state statues and replaced with an "allocation of parental responsibilities." For example, litigating parents are required to submit to the court comprehensive parenting plans. The "best interest of the child" also now includes "the ability of the parent to place the child's needs before their own." Activist Ken Ward predicts this will reduce the alienation of children.

"The whole thought behind these changes are that children are not property and they're not something to win in a fight between the parents. These laws take the fight right out of custody, which will reduce litigation."

For more information, consult Colorado revised statues Title 14, Article 10, or consult the webpage of Fathers for Equal Rights in Colorado, www.ffer.com

Write to your state legislators asking them to pass a similar law.

Mandated Mediation in Nebraska

The Nebraska Supreme Court recently approved an amendment to Rule 4-3 of the rules of the Fourth Judicial Court which requires all parties to domestic relations matters involving children to attend a parenting education program within sixty days from receipt of service in process. This includes dissolution of marriage, determination of paternity, and visitation (parenting time) requests. Parties are also required to prepare a Parenting Plan, including child custody, visitation (parenting time), grandparenting time, and other issues relating to children.

No trial date will be scheduled until attendance at parenting education has been completed and mediation has been attempted, provided however, that failure or refusal to participate shall not delay entry of a final judgement by more than six months.

The Role of the Mediator

The role of the mediator in disputes will be to assist parents to communicate and to make voluntary, informed choices in an effort to find a mutually acceptable resolution concerning their child or children. The mediator will be impartial, neutral, and unbiased toward the parents. Mediation ethics derive from the respect the mediator has for the uniqueness of each parent and family, their values, dignity, competence and right to self-determination.

Qualities and qualifications of the mediator will facilitate the parents' ability to create a new or modify an already existing parenting plan for their child or children. The final agreement must be approved by the court.

From "For Our Children," Vol. 1, No. 1, by CRC of Nebraska, describing the mediation program in Nebraska being administered by the chapter, under a federally-funded access grant for the state of Nebraska.

Write to your state legislators asking that divorce mediation be required in your state.

Chapter News

CRC Provides Access Programs in Washington, D.C.

Judges and other city officials spoke at a press conference to announce access/visitation services for residents of the District of Columbia provided by National CRC and its Washington, D.C. chapter.

The press conference was held at the Hillcrest Children's Center in the Shaw area of the nation's capital on February 9, 1999, and carried that evening on all four D.C.'s major local TV networks, the affiliates of ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox.

CRC Legislative Intern Ta'Mora Jones with Superior Court Chief Judge Eugene Hamilton at CRC's Press Conference

Children of divorced, unwed or separated parents may visit with the non-custodial parents at a neutral, non-threatening atmosphere, and their parents can be helped with parenting issues generally.

The National CRC office operates a "hotline" for District of Columbia residents, at 202-544-3900, and provides information, resources and referrals.

The Washington, D.C. chapter, headed by Frank Banner, provides the neutral drop-off and pick-up site for children, supervised access/visitation, and parenting education classes.

The hotline and services are provided with funds from the District's child support office, and supervised by the D.C. Superior Court.

Superior Court Chief Judge Eugene N. Hamilton, who with his wife has raised more than 80 children in foster care, and Corporation Counsel John Ferren, a former judge, who supervises the District's child support office, spoke about the excellent opportunity the programs offer to help children and families.

One of the highlights of the press conference was seeing a father hold his 4 year old son whom he is seeing more frequently, he said, thanks to the CRC program.

Get funding for a hotline and neutral drop-off and pick-up site in your community. Network with groups interested in family issues to see who has money for such projects!

Ask for Downward Modifications

State Child Support Director Says You Should Ask for Downward Mod. Where Appropriate

Nick Young, director of Child Support Enforcement Division for the State of Virginia, urges non-custodial parents to apply for services from child support offices, including review and downward modification of their orders, if warranted, and to ensure equity through the entire process.

"If non-custodial parents are paying through the system, they are already a client or customer and are entitled to have the benefit of child support services," said Young.

CRC would like to hear from any parents who seek relief from any child support offices. Send your success, or lack of success stories, to CRC.

Inside CRC

Former Hill Aide Helps CRC

Rebecca Roberts-Malamis, is CRC's new Legislative Director. She is helping CRC to ask Congress to not pass the anti-joint custody amendment which is Sec. 241 of Violence Against Women Act (see elsewhere in this issue). Rebecca was a legislative attorney for Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) on Capitol Hill for nine years, and later worked as a Washington representative for the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies. She left that job to be an at-home mom for her son Billy. Now that Billy is 4 years old, she is venturing forth, and volunteered to help CRC. Rebecca is married to Peter Malamis, a vice-president of a medical consulting firm in northern Virginia.

Two CD's Mention CRC

Twilley wrote "Questions from Dad"

Author, pop singer, and CRC Spokesperson Dwight Twilley has two CD's being released back-to-back this Spring. They are:

* "Between the Cracks," a collection of rarities and unreleased tracks spanning 20 years on the Not Lame label; and

* "Tulsa," the new Dwight Twilley studio release, on the Cooper label. Twilley acknowledges the Children's Rights Council in the credits on both releases.

Dwight and his fiance Jan Allison, his artistic director and part-time recording engineer, plan to be married later this year. Twilley, a native of Tulsa, wrote the book "Questions from Dad" several years ago, a book whose tips provide ways for parents to keep in touch with their kids.

The book is available from CRC, in the catalog elsewhere in this issue.

Mediation, Moveaway Help

Leslee Newman, J.D., who has been giving free consultations on move-away issues to CRC members, is available for mediation consultations (at a fee). Leslee, who is a trained mediator, can be reached at 714-282-1515. Her husband Don Smith, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, is available for child custody evaluations. Don's number is 714-939-6678. Don and Leslee are both in Orange County, California, but can handle cases anywhere in the country.

Get a Better Guideline in Your State

The best chance to have your state adopt a newer, fairer financial child support guideline is to have a state agency or commission invite Don Bieniewicz to testify in your state.

Bieniewicz is author of the CRC guideline, published by the federal government in its booklet entitled "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation."

The guidelines in effect in almost all states, which were prepared by Robert Williams, of Policy Studies, Inc., Denver, for federal government distribution some years ago, are all based on zero visitation, Williams has admitted.

Furthermore, such guidelines have a "cliff effect," a magic number, such as 30% or 35%, where an adjustment of the guideline kicks in. So some parents fight over this number, custodial parents trying to keep access below the cut-off, while some non-custodial parents fight to make it higher, in a battle over money.

The CRC guideline cancels out both problems, because it is based on the assumption that some access/visitation takes place, and in a slowly increasing way, so that an adjustment is based on the actual access a child has to a non-custodial parent.

In such event, more money is being spent directly on the child, so somewhat less money would need to be transferred to the other parent.

To obtain a copy of "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation," which contains the CRC guideline, phone (202) 401-9383, which is the Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Reference Center, located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, D.C. 20447. There is no charge for the publication, as long as supplies last.

Copies of the CRC guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for $5 for CRC members, and $10 for non-members, including shipping and handling.

If you would like to contact Don Bieniewicz for his assistance in getting this guideline adopted in your state, write him at 10004 Fairoaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, contact him via email at DonBien@erols.com, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

Updated Parenting Directory Available

The new update of CRC's International Parenting Directory is available. Updated as of September, 1998, this 7th edition of the directory contains information on more than 1,200 groups and individuals across the country and abroad working in areas such as custody, access/visitation, and prevention of parental kidnapping. The Directory, an invaluable networking tool, is available in hardcopy or disk for $12 for CRC members, and $15 for non-members. CRC thanks Paul Robinson and Ed Mudrak for their hard work in updating this Directory. The hardcopy is updated once a year; the disk is updated frequently. Order from CRC and specify which version you want—hardcopy or disk.

Donors are Appreciated

CRC thanks everyone who contributes to CRC in the charity drive that takes place in all federal government offices every Fall. CRC is listed as number 1513 in the Children's Charities of America listing, which is part of the Independent Charities of America. We also thank those who contribute to CRC in the Washington, D.C., and San Francisco (Bay Area) United Way campaigns.

We also thank those who contribute to CRC through their United Way in some other part of the country, where we are not listed, but where employers may sometimes allow employees to designate CRC.

CRC depends on volunteer help and contributions for its existence.

If you wish to make your tax-deductible contribution directly to CRC, send it to CRC, 300 I Street, Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Intellectual Property Protection

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for the name and logo "Children's Rights Council" and the name and logo for our newsletter "Speak Out for Children" is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero and Perle, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Family Court Information

CRC Advisor Leslie Ann Brownrigg has information and research on why every state should have a unified Family Court. Contact CRC on how to reach Leslie.

Thanks Julie and Rob

CRC thanks Julie Maggiacomo and Rob Whitfield for volunteer services to kids and CRC.

Non-Custodial Parents Will Pay for our Children's Health Insurance, but Why Can't We Have any Say on Federal Panel?

A federal commission has been formed to find ways to improve the enforcement of medical child support obligations for uninsured children.

Shalala

The panel is expected to hold hearings around the country this year to elicit testimony from citizens and officials who have ideas on what works, and what doesn't work, in the health insurance field.

The panel was announced in March, 1999 by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala and Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. Shalala said there are more than 10 million uninsured children.

Twenty-three people were appointed to the Panel, many of them representing HMOs and insurance companies. Five representatives of groups speaking for custodial mothers were appointed, and one representative of an unwed parent organization. Not one representative of groups for children and non-custodial parents were appointed, even though Secretary Shalala said in her announcement of the panel's formation that many "non-custodial parents" are not providing coverage.

CRC President David L. Levy, who was invited to testify at the panel's opening session, said that California CRC coordinator Patricia Gehlen finds that health insurance is available for children in California for as low as $74 a month.

Levy spoke of the need for more incentives for parents to be part of children's lives. Health insurance could be part of a parenting plan developed by parents that includes both parents in their children's life, he said.

The group will assess the National Medical Support Notice, which is to be issued under interim regulations later this year. The notice will provide a uniform manner to inform employers about the need to enroll a non-custodial parent's child in employer-provided health insurance coverage.

The panel's schedule for hearings has not yet been set. To find out if the panel will visit your part of the country, phone Michael Kharfen, 202/401-9215, or Sharon Morrissey 202/219-8921, at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Herman

The panel's recommendations are expected to be part of a report from Shalala and Herman to Congress in 2000, leading to possible further legislation.

Write to Secretary Donna Shalala, U.,S. Department of Health of Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20447, asking that non-custodial parents be heard from when Medical Child Support Panel meets this year.

CRC Info

Fax:	202-546-4272
Website:	www.vix.com/crc
E-mail:	crcdc@erols.com

Your group may already operate a "Hotline" for information and referrals, and you could start a neutral drop-off and pick-up site for children at a local church, both of which could be funded. Go for the funds! Call CRC for information.

Court Cases

Surviving Parent Gets Custody

Probate courts lack the authority to decide guardianship petitions involving minor children if a child's parent objects, the Rhode Island Supreme Court has ruled.

The Probate Court may only appoint such a guardian after the Family Court has terminated the objecting parent's parental rights, said Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger. And that will only happen, he said, if a Family Court judge makes a finding that the father or mother is unfit.

"Unless the court finds egregious behavior on the parent's part," Weisberger said, state law mandates that "reasonable efforts shall be made to preserve and unify families."

The ruling by the high court came in a case involving a 7-year-old Newport boy whose mother died of cancer in January 1997. Shortly before her death, the mother, who had sole custody, placed custody of the boy with her cousin.

The father, Timothy Carr objected to the guardianship petition filed by the cousin. He argued that the Probate Court lacked authority to award permanent guardianship of a minor child over the opposition of a surviving parent.

Weisberger pointed out that Rhode Island case law states "parents are the natural guardians of their children" and "on the death of a parent to whom such custody has been awarded, the right to custody automatically reverts to the surviving spouse."

Thus, what Heidi Carr's cousin is asking the Probate Court to do is to terminate the father's "natural guardianship and custody rights" and award her custody—something, Weisberger said, only the Family Court can do.

He pointed out, however, that probate courts still have the authority to appoint guardians for orphans and minors who do not have objecting parents.

Relocation and Automatic Custody Change

The Wyoming Supreme Court on Jan. 19 overruled a provision in a couple's divorce decree that custody of the children would change automatically to the father if the mother moved more than 50 miles from Upton, WY. The court said that a custodial parent's constitutional right of travel carries with it the right to take the children with her. The mother decided to pursue a new career after the divorce, and was accepted into the graduate program at the University of Wyoming. However, the program was available only at the school's campus in Laramie. A trial court had denied the mother's motion to modify the divorce decree so that she could take her sons to Laramie with her.

(Watt v. Watt, Wyo SupCt., No. 96-322, 1/19/99)

Relocation and Conditional Change of Custody

The Nevada Supreme Court ruled Feb. 12 that a lower court was wrong to deny a mother's petition to take her children with her to Japan in order to be with her husband, who was in the armed forces. The father had sought a conditional change of custody, which would become effective if the mother moved to Japan. However, the Supreme Court said such a conditional change of custody would force the mother to choose between the children and her husband. The Supreme Court said that conditional orders changing custody should be made only if the judge affirmatively determines that the child's best interests are served, taking all factors, not just the move, into consideration.

(Hayes v. Gallacher, Nov. SupCt., No. 31191, 2/12/99)

Relocation and Joint Custody

A trial court should have considered a mother's wish to move to West Virginia with the child before it decided that joint custody was in the best interests of the child, the Nevada Supreme Court ruled Dec. 30. The Supreme Court told the trial court to consider the mother's plan to move. A Nevada statute provides that, if custody has been established, and a parent having joint custody intends to move outside the state with the child, he or she must obtain the parent's permission to request court authorization. After deciding on joint custody, the trial court judge said that, under this statute, it was inconsistent to conclude that both parents were capable of sharing custody, and then allow one parent to defeat that conclusion by requesting permission to move with the child. The mother said she had exhausted her career opportunities as a secretary in Las Vegas, and claimed that the move to West Virginia would allow her to finish college and obtain a teaching certificate.

(McGuinness v. McGuinness, Nev SupCt, No. 30836, 12/30/98

(CRC note: Get real, court, are there no secretarial career opportunities or colleges in Nevada?)

Hague Convention and Visitation

The U.S. Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania said Dec. 15, 1998, that the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction does not cover enforcement of visitation. The parents divorced in Texas and the mother was awarded custody of the children. After the divorce, the father moved to England. He claimed that the mother then denied him access to the children, and refused to provide information about the children, including her current address and telephone number. The court said that the Hague Convention provides no remedy for interference with visitation or access rights unless there has been a wrongful removal of a child. Because the mother had custody of the children, no removal was involved, the court said. The court told the father that the proper place for his action was a state court that has authority to enforce and modify the Texas divorce decree.

(Bromley v. Bromley, DC EPa, No. 98-MC-0180, 12/15/98)

Continued on page 23

Court Cases

Continued from page 22

Concealment of Child

A mother's willful concealment of her son from his father since 1978 does not preclude her from collecting from the father the child support arrearages that have accrued during the period of concealment, the Arkansas Court of Appeals ruled Feb. 3. The mother had moved to California, and had refused any contact between the child and the father, who lived in Arkansas. The mother had assigned her child support rights to the state of Missouri, where she lived before moving with the child to California. The appeals court said that, under the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) a court may not consider collateral matters, including visitation, when faced with the issue of enforcing child support.

(Office of Child Support Enforcement v. Clemons, Ark CtApp, No. 98-542, 2/3/99)

(CRC note: Once more a court refuses to consider the emotional health and rights of children).

All of the above cases except the first one are summarized from Family Law Reporter. They appear here by permission of the publisher, The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

Apply for Funds in Third Round of Access Grants!

Arnaudo Says More Funds Are Available

Under the third round of access (visitation) grants scheduled for the summer of 1999, each state will double what it receives, according to David Arnaudo, an officer in the federal office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), who oversees the grant process to the states.

Small states each received only $50,000 for each of the first two years of the grants. But each state will receive at least $100,000 for the third and successive years, according to the 1996 Welfare Reform law, which authorized the grants.

Funding for small states in the third year will go up, while funding for larger states, some of which received $600,000 to $1 million in each of the first two years, will receive less, said Arnaudo.

Non-profit groups are eligible to receive funds from the states, and are urged to contact state officials in charge of the grants. For information on who handles the grants in your states, contact CRC. CRC will help you write a grant proposal, if we can.

Write to Congress!

We have a new Congress. Do you know who your Representatives and Senators are? Write and get acquainted. Tell them politely what you think about what is happening to children and families these days. Get acquainted with the staff membersworking for the Representative and Senator who handle our types of family issues. Then when you write later in the session asking them to vote for or against an issue, they know you!

Write to House members at:
Representative ——
(name of your Representative)
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Write to Senators at:
Senator —— (name of your Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Get to know your State legislators, too!

Sonny Burmeister Award

CRC will present its first Sonny Burmeister Child Advocacy Award at our 1999 conference in September. The award is named for Sonny Burmeister, longtime head of the George CRC activist, who died in an accident in February, 1996. Sonny was a mentor and inspiration for many people around the country. Submit your nomination to the chairman of the committee, Ed Gadrix, Esquire, Gadrix and Associates, 770 Old Roswell Place, Suite B200, Roswell, GA 30076, phone 678-461-9525. Ed was a friend of Sonny's, as were other members of the committee, including Elizabeth Hickey and Mike Oddenino.

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new addresses to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20002.

Bleicken Ran for Congress

Eric Bleicken, a former CRC member ran for Congress in Massachusetts. Eric received 40 percent of the vote, despite having spent only a fraction of what his opponent incumbent spent. Still, not all of Eric's costs have been paid off. To make a contribution, contact Eric Bleicken, 170B Pleasant St., S. Yarmouth, MA 02664, phone 508/760-2045.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Equal Parents' Week July 26 – August 1, 1999

by Patti Diroff

CRC's National Coordinator of Equal Parents' Week

Buy or Make a Ribbon Like This and Tie it to a Tree or Antenna or Wear it July 26 to August 1

As the national sponsor of Equal Parents' Week 1999 (July 26 - August 1), CRC encourages its chapters, members, and supporters to join in sending a united message throughout the U.S. during Equal Parents' Week.

Our message reaches to the heart of families everywhere by advocating that the right of a child to be raised and nurtured by parents, and the right of families to exist and function as a family, are civil and human rights inalienable to all families.

CRC asks you to please wear and tie purple ribbons (to trees, door knobs, bikes, car antennas, etc.) Monday July 26 through Sunday, August 1, 1999 to send this message.

On Wednesday, July 28, at 8:30 p.m., we will observe "A Moment in our Hearts, Moment of Solidarity" as our national event, by holding candlelight vigils and "Home Vigils."

We urge all of you who cannot organize or attend a public vigil, or who do not have one taking place near you, to hold a "Home Vigil" by lighting a candle in your home for at least 15 minutes, on July 28 at 8:30 p.m.

A "Home Vigil" can be held by anyone; a single person living alone, and include as many people as you wish, so family and friends can be invited.

CRC will once again be networking with other organizations to invite them to participate in Equal Parents' Week. Please spread the word to friends and families to tie purple ribbons and hold vigils to make our message a national mandate.

Joint custody is a choice for unconditional love and sacrifice.

Fundamentally, all components of courts and government need to focus on joint custody to realize that it works when we put our children first.

If we as a society fail to recognize that there is no substitute for the love of a parent in children's lives and there is no substitute for the equal presence of both parents in children's lives to meet their children's need for that love, we have lost the ability to see, feel and touch the very thing we live, breathe and feel as the very heart and soul of our humanity, our own human love. This is what we mean when we say, "The Best Parent is Both Parents"

View CRC's Equal Parents' Week website at http://members.tripod.com/epweek

Contact Patti Diroff with questions and comments, and to notify her of purple ribbon activities, and public and home candlelight vigils.

She is offering a free Equal Parents' Week button to the first 100 people who contact her and provide a solid commitment that they will hold a Home Vigil. She can be contacted at 909/591-3689. You can e-mail Patti Diroff at pattidiroff@worldnet.att.net

CRC's supports National Parents' Day July 25, which is sponsored by the Parenting Coalition International (formerly the National Parents Day Coalition), in Washington, D.C.

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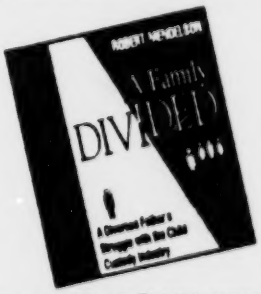

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CRC WANTS CHAPTERS IN EVERY STATE!!!

For development of chapters in states that do not yet have CRC chapters, contact for northwest states is Jim Babcock at 402/792-2271, and for northeast states, Ron Pilcher, 513/755-2932.

For development of chapters in other states, contact the CRC office, at (202) 547-6227.

Join CRC, then ask for a copy of the 100-page CRC booklet that explains everything you need to know about affiliation. The cost of the booklet is $15 for non-members, and $12 for members.

To form additional chapters in states that already have one or more chapters, contact the state coordinator, existing state chapter head, or CRC national office.

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More Chapter News

Continued from page 19

Mothers Without Custody on the Internet!

Mothers Without Custody, a national organization representing America's 2 million non-custodial mothers, is now a solely on-line presence.

Jennifer Isham, M.A., N.C.C. (nationally certified counselor) and L.C.P.C., who was president of MW/OC, is coordinating the website as http://www.motherswithoutcustody.org

MW/OC has been an emotional support group for non-custodial mothers. Isham has been counseling non-custodial mothers for 15 years in formal and informal settings. She was instrumental in developing the mandated parent education project for separated and divorced parents for McHenry County, Illinois, north of Chicago.

The motto of MW/OC is "Still Love, Still Care, Still There."

"Legislators and policymakers are often surprised to hear that there are 2 million non-custodial mothers, but it helps them to understand the problems better," said CRC President David L. Levy. "We are delighted that Jennifer Isham is offering a way to help non-custodial mothers."

New CRC Chapters in Pennsylvania and Maryland

Michael and Anne Poliakoff have formed a new CRC chapter, CRC of Harrisburg-Capitol Region, in Pennsylvania. Michael, who has a Ph.D. in classical literature, is Pennsylvania's Deputy Secretary for Higher Education, while Anne, a Ph.D. in American studies, is president of Citizens for the Arts, a non-profit organization. Michael is a non-custodial father of three children, Cyrus, 15; Emily, 12, and Abram, 8. Anne is their stepmom.

Sandra Snow, Ph.D. and her husband Robert Snow, head the new chapter in Baltimore, Maryland's biggest city. Robert is a non-custodial dad who is doing research on the Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), and Sandra has worked with families for 17 years.

CRC Book Selling on Amazon.Com

What a pleasant surprise! After negotiations between Paul Robinson of CRC and Amazon.com, the huge internet book seller agreed to carry the CRC book, "The Best Parent is Both Parents." We also thank Bruce Kaskubar of Minnesota CRC for rightly orienting us.

Within the first weeks of availability on amazon.com, 25 copies were ordered or sold.

You can order the book from amazon.com for the list price of $10.

This is the same price as the book sells from CRC, plus $4 for shipping and handling; but if you want bulk copies at a reduced rate, order 10 copies or more from CRC for only $4 a copy, resell for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization!

You can help educate judges, policymakers, and others on issues of concern to you and CRC by giving them a copy.

For orders from CRC of 20 copies or less, add $5 for shipping (to one address). For orders of more than 20 copies, shipping cost is included.

If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names) and your autographed copy will be sent to you.

Amicus Briefs

If your case is on appeal, and you would like CRC to consider writing an amicus brief, contact CRC. CRC cannot handle cases at the trial level, and we do not write the main appeal brief. An amicus brief is a supplemental brief, telling the court why this case is of significance not only to the parties in the case, but to other children and families We generally need 30 to 60 days before the filing deadline. CRC is particularly interested in cases on appeal that raise constitutional issues relating to a child's right to two parents.

Nicholas Kelly

Nicholas Kelly, the son of longtime custody reform activist George Kelly, died in an accident in late March, 1997, in Springfield, Massachusetts. Nicholas, a former Marine, was 25.

He leaves his grieving dad, a sister, and his mother. George Kelly may be reached at Concerned Fathers of MA, Inc., P.O. Box 2768, Springfield, MA 01101.

FAMILY FACTS

Photocopy and distribute the "Family Facts" on page 16! Use as hand-outs when visiting the Legislature, disseminating information to the courts or the media, or as a resource for testimony and Letters to the Editor. "Family Facts" is a regular feature of this newsletter. Send us your verified facts (with actual copies, sources and dates) to "Family Facts," CRC.

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Vol. 14-No.2

Strengthening Families Through Education And Advocacy

Summer/Fall 1999

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Strong Shared Parenting Becomes Law in West Virginia

By Ginger Thompson
President, West Virginia Alliance for Two Parents

Ginger Thompson

After two vetoes and a special session of the West Virginia legislature, Gov. Cecil Underwood (R) signed into law a measure that drastically changes the way state courts deal with divorce and child custody. The new law is "one step short" of a presumption for legal and physical joint custody.

While the new West Virginia family law bill, Senate Bill 2003, is not everything joint custody advocates wanted, it is much better than the current system, which was based on case law. Until the passage of the new law, judges did not have the power to order joint custody. Custody was awarded to the parent deemed to be the primary caretaker; the new law eliminates the primary caretaker presumption.

The original proposed bill advocated by the West

Continued on page 3

Top 10 States Report Released to Major Media

Maine is the best state in which to raise a child, according to the 5th annual ranking of states compiled by the Children's Rights Council, and released to the biggest media day in CRC history on July 27.

Fourteen news cameras covered the press conference on Capitol Hill, at which Maine Governor Angus King (I), U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe (R), Reps. Thomas Allen (D), and John Baldacci (D), all from Maine, received congratulations from CRC.

CRC spokespeople appeared on The Today Show, CBS This Morning, CNN, and numerous radio and TV shows around the country. Associated Press wire service

CRC Staff Work on Top 10 Report

Continued on page 5

DO NOT CIRCULATE

"Speak Out for Children" is published by the Children's Rights Council, Inc. Editor: David L. Levy. Contributors to this issue: Ken Skilling, Kathleen Ballard, David Dinn, Don Bieniewicz, Paul Robinson, Ed Mudrak, and college student interns Eric Bover, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Marvellen Dougherty, Wake Forest University; Carrie Dvoranchik, Duke University; Jaime Levi, University of Virginia; Erin McCarthy, William and Mary; Vanitha Muregesan, George Washington University; Stephanie Reich, Brooklyn Law School; Amanda Roisman, Southern Methodist University; Fatima Saadat, Smith College; Ellen Sanders, Smith College; and Chad Vinansky, Lycoming College. Layout by Sheila Holzberger.

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The CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nationwide, non-profit IRS 501 (c) (3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

CRC works to strengthen families through education and advocacy. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and for parents who are unwed or separated. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for emotional and financial child support. We work to strengthen fragile families of children whose parents are unwed. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in custody reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 32 states and two national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC) and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

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Salt Lake City, Utah

PARENTING EDUCATION SPOKESPERSON
Wes Unseld, VP Washington Wizards
Member, NBA Hall of Fame

NATIONAL SPOKESPERSONS
Darryl Grant, Washington Redskins Superbowl XVII and XXII Champion
Dwight Twilley, Pop Singer / Author

EVALUATORS OF RESEARCH
John Guidubaldi, D.Ed.
D. Richard Kuhn
Nancy Heleno Obetz

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Former President, Board of Rabbis of Greater Washington, DC

David Birney, Actor
Santa Monica, California

Hon. Sherwood Boehlert
U.S. Congressman (R-NY)

Jim Cook, President
Joint Custody Association
Los Angeles, California

"Dear Abby"
(Abigail Van Buren)
Los Angeles, California

Karen DeCrow
Former President of N.O.W.
Jamesville, New York

Elliott H. Diamond
Co-Founder, CRC
Reston, Virginia

Phyllis Diller, Comedienne
Los Angeles, California

Marguerite Engel, president
Stepfamily Association of America

Warren Farrell, Ph.D., Author
former Member of the Board of Directors, New York City N.O.W.
Leucadia, California

Larry Gaughan, Professional Director
Family Mediation of Greater Washington, D.C.

Jonathan M. Goodson, President
Mark Goodson Productions
Los Angeles, California

Hon. Bob Graham
U.S. Senator (D-FL)

Jennifer Isham, President
Mothers Without Custody (MW/OC)
Crystal Lake, Illinois

Joan B. Kelly, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Northern California Mediation Center

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, M.D.
Author, Psychiatrist
Scottsdale, Arizona
Vicki Lansky, Author / Columnist
Deephaven, Minnesota

James Levine, The Fatherhood Project
The Family and Work Institute
New York, New York

John Money, Ph.D. Professor of Medical Psychology and Pediatrics
Johns Hopkins University and Hospital
Baltimore, Maryland

Hon. Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Congresswoman (D-MI)

Hon. Fred Thompson
U.S. Senator (R-TN)

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Shared Parenting

Continued from page 1

Virginia Alliance for Two Parents was based in part on a model bill published by the Children's Rights Council. This model was incorporated into the Senate version of the bill, but died in conference committee during the regular legislative session. The House version, based loosely upon the American Law Institute model, prevailed. That bill passed during the last night of the session, but was vetoed for technical reasons.

Another version passed during an extension of the regular session in March and was vetoed by the governor after some women's groups protested. The Governor called a special session of the legislature in May and the bill was reincarnated, changed somewhat, and passed a third time. See http://www.legis.state.wv.us/domrel0a.html. West Virginia's current domestic law can be found at http://www.legis.state.wv.us. Click on WV Code then click on Chapter 48.

The most important part of the new law is the section which restrains courts from using the primary caretaker doctrine in determining custody. The law now states that beginning January 1, 2000, "the primary caretaker doctrine shall be replaced with a system that allocates custodial and decision-making responsibility to the parents in accordance with this article."

Another section of the law gives courts the ability to order shared parenting which they had previously been prevented from doing because of case law. Under the new law, courts not only can order the equivalent of joint custody but shall order it. The new law states that "if each of the child's legal parents has been exercising a reasonable share of parenting functions for the child, the court shall presume that an allocation of decision-making responsibility to both parents is in the child's best interests." The presumption is overcome if there is a history of domestic abuse, or by a showing that joint allocation of decision-making responsibility is not in the child's best interest.

Mandatory Parent Ed and Mediation

In addition, beginning January 1, 2000, parent education and mediation are mandatory statewide. Judges will be able to order share parenting when there is no agreement between the parties. Parenting plans will then be mandatory, outlining each parent's responsibilities. If the parents are unable to agree to a parenting plan in mediation, each parent will submit one and the family lawmaster will make a ruling.

The terms custody, visitation, custodial parent, non-custodial parent, etc., are gone with the new law. Judges will allocate "custodial responsibility," and each parent will have the decision-making authority while the child is in his or her care.

The new law also places restrictions on relocating with the child. In order for a parent to relocate with the child without a court hearing, he or she must be performing more than 70 percent of the custodial responsibility. They must give 60 days notice and provide the address of the new proposed custodial homes and other information. They must also demonstrate that the move "is in good faith with legitimate purpose" and also propose a new parenting plan.

"For those who would like to see a clear rebuttable presumption of joint legal and physical custody, this does not seem like a victory, but it is. By West Virginia standards this is a huge leap forward," said Thompson.

(Note: Ginger Thompson is giving CRC a West Virginia chapter for the first time. See info in chapter listing on page 26).

Ask your state legislators to pass a joint custody (shared parenting) law similar to the new law in West Virginia.

CRC Info

Fax:	202-546-4272
Website:	www.vix.com/crc
E-mail:	crcdc@erols.com

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

For shame! CRC didn't focus enough on joint custody in your report on The Top 10 States to Raise a Child.

Sam Sadat
Wyoming

Editor:

David Levy did a wonderful job of presenting a very balanced and intelligent description of the issues in the ranking of "The Top 10 States to Raise Children" on The Today show July 27.

This is just what has been needed nationwide!

David worked into the conversation the issue of two parents very nicely; and he let the states know they will be evaluated on the issue of joint custody (shared parenting) in next year's ranking of the states, when data is expected to become available from the Census Bureau that will allow state-by-state reporting of this data.

Ben Sawyer
Massachusetts

Hickey

The CRC View

by Elizabeth Hickey
CRC's Director of Parent Education

Separating Utah Parents Must Attend Parent Education Class—And They Like It!

In the May, 1999 issue of Utah's Parent magazine I discuss both the root causes and possible solutions to problems that develop in many marriages today.

My article is the second installment in a three-part series entitled "Dealing With Divorce." I have been working for the past ten years as the Director of the Mediation and Divorce Center in Salt Lake City.

While I believe that mediation is one solution, I also believe that a healthy dose of education would better prepare divorcing parents for the challenges ahead of them.

Since beginning to offer free voluntary classes in Salt Lake City that focused on the needs of children in divorce situations, I have found the program to be very successful.

Eventually, the success of the program led to a state law which requires divorcing parents in Utah to attend a class that sensitizes parents to what children do and do not need during and after a divorce.

The class evaluations which are filled out upon completion of the course revealed that many felt education should be an integral part of not simply divorce, but marriage itself. Frequently, the evaluations bore comments like: "I wish I took this class before I got married."

This led many parent-educators, including me, to believe that perhaps a class prior to obtaining a marriage license would help assure that couples are ready for the reality, responsibilities, and challenges of marriage. When asked if a class like this would be helpful before marriage, more than 80 percent of the divorcing parents have answered "yes."

As my work has shown, there is a great need for all parents to be educated concerning both marriage and divorce. Many people believe that divorce is the answer to the problems, and for many couples it is. But divorce brings with it other types of problems, like disruption of family traditions, which are many times unforeseen. For those considering divorce, it is necessary to ponder some of the reasons why so many marriages are ending that way. These reasons include lack of communication, holding in feelings of resentment, drug or alcohol dependency, and unwillingness to compromise.

Discovering the roots of marital problems is the first step toward finding the best solution for all involved, especially the children. Though many are able to identify the reasons they seek a divorce, finding ways to work it out may seem more mysterious. Tips on improving a marriage include effective listening, communicating and compromise. Throughout the whole process, however, it is essential to focus on healing, and embracing important relationships.

Hickey is an award-winning author and video producer. She has authored "Healing Hearts" and a children's picture book, "I Love you More Than.... She created the video, "Children: The Experts on Divorce", all of which are available from CRC (see CRC List of Publications).

Updated Parenting Directory Available

CRC has written to all 1,200 organizations listed in CRC's International Parenting Directory to update their entry.

The 8th edition of the directory, incorporating those changes, is expected to be available by early October, 1999.

The 1,200 groups listed are working across the country and abroad in areas such as custody, access/visitation, and prevention of parental kidnapping.

The Directory, an invaluable networking tool, is available in hardcopy or disc for $12 for CRC members, and $15 for non-members. CRC thanks Paul Robinson and Ed Mudrak for their hard work in updating this Directory.

The hardcopy is updated once a year; the disc is updated frequently. Order from CRC and specify which version you want—hardcopy or disc.

We thank Bladen Lithography in Gaithersburg, MD for providing printing services to CRC.

Intellectual Property Protection

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for the name and logo "Children's Rights Council" and the name and logo for our newsletter "Speak Out for Children" is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero and Perle, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 327-6067.

Beat the Tax Man: Contribute to CRC

Keep working for children. If you wish to consider leaving a bequest or property to CRC, please state the following in your will: "I hereby leave the following to the Children's Rights Council: — (state your bequest)."

Top 10 States

Continued from page 1

coverage resulted in the news being published by an estimated 1,500 newspapers and 1,500 radio stations.

CNN provided coverage several times, and CBS News, National Public Radio (national), Scripps-Howard and Knight-Ridder wire services covered the event.

People from Indianapolis to Los Angeles told CRC that they saw or heard of the release 3 or 4 times, in the newspaper, on the radio, and on TV.

U.S.A. Today headlined "Children's Rights Council Report..." on page 3.

The CRC website, which usually gets about 125 "hits" (inquiries) a day, had 74,000 hits in one day—July 27. 30,000 of the "hits" sought out the Top 10 Report.

Maine advanced from eighth place in 1998's ranking. Maine replaced Iowa, 1998's number one state. This is primarily due to an increase in the graduation rate, a decrease of the children in poverty rate, and a decrease in the teen birth rate in Maine.

The report ranked the 50 states and the District of Columbia on abuse and neglect, the percentage of children immunized by age two, high school dropout rate, child death rate, infant mortality rate, percentage of mothers not receiving prenatal care in the first trimester, percentage of juvenile arrests, percentage of teen births, and percentage of divorces. The average of all ten factors was calculated for each state, and the states were ranked from lowest to highest percentage from 1 to 51.

The article is reproduced below and the state rankings are reproduced in the column on the next page.

Joint Custody Mentioned

At the news conference, on The Today Show, and on CBS This Morning, CRC President David L. Levy said that it has been hard to measure how generous states have been on granting joint custody (shared parenting) and how liberal they have been in granting liberal access/visitation, but we hope to be able to measure these factors next year, so states...get ready.

Several news outlets also mentioned the CRC website, where it clearly states that "Children raised in single-parent families are at great risk for juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, poor grades, drugs, dropping out of school and other trouble."

"CRC could never get this publicity for the idea that 'The Best Parent is Both Parents,' said CRC President David L. Levy, "but we can point out that CRC cares about child poverty, teen births, and other issues, and the best way to solve these problems is by encouraging two-parent involvement. That way, we get people to think about the solution to so many of these problems."

CRC staff members prepared the report and participated in the press conference.

USA TODAY · WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1999 · 3A

Children's Rights Council calls Maine best place to raise kids

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Compiling information on everything from immunization to juvenile crime, a national advocacy group has concluded that Maine is the best state in which to rear a child.

Maine advanced from eighth place last year, when Iowa was No. 1 in the rankings compiled by the Children's Rights Council.

Behind Maine are Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Bringing up the rear, in descending order, are California, Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana and Washington, D.C.

The report released Tuesday measured rates of abuse and neglect; the rate of immunizations under age 2; the high-school dropout rate; children in poverty; the child death rate; the infant mortality rate; those not receiving natal care; total juvenile crime; the divorce rate; and the teen birth rate.

The states were ranked by calculating the average of all 10 factors.

By Robert F. Bukaty, AP

King: 'Nobody from Maine would tell you that everything is fixed.'

"This is a wonderful honor for Maine, and it simply tells the country something we've known in Maine for a long time — it is a wonderful place to raise children," said Gov. Angus King, who was joined by members of the state's congressional delegation. But he acknowledged that more needs to be done.

"Nobody from Maine would tell you that everything is fixed," the governor said.

King spokesman Denis Bailey said the governor has made child welfare a top priority with programs such as the Children's Cabinet. The program was formed in 1994 to let the heads of five state agencies collaborate on policies affecting parents and children.

But Bailey also noted that some areas for improvement aren't shown by the figures, such as those showing a low high-school dropout rate.

"What we don't do well in is the number of graduates going on to college or technical school," he said.

Peggy Armstrong, a spokeswoman for District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams, said city officials had no quarrel with the District's last-place rank in the report.

Next year's budget, which Congress must approve, earmarks $50 million for programs to "help turn these terrible statistics around," she said.

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How States Rank for Children

The Children's Rights Council ranking of states' desirability for raising a child according to 10 factors, from best to worst.

1	Maine
2	Massachusetts
3	Connecticut
4	Vermont
5	New Hampshire
6	North Dakota
7	Maryland
8	Kansas
9	Wisconsin
10	Iowa
11	Minnesota
12	Rhode Island
13	Hawaii
14	Alaska
15	Nebraska
16	Pennsylvania
17	New Jersey
18	Washington
19	North Carolina
20	Delaware
21	Colorado
22	Utah
23	Virginia
24	Missouri
25	Michigan
26	Wyoming
27	South Dakota
28	Georgia
29	Ohio
30	Montana
31	Alabama
32	West Virginia
33	Illinois
34	New York
35	Kentucky
36	Florida
37	Indiana
38	Tennessee
39	South Carolina
40	Oregon
41	Idaho
42	Mississippi
43	Arkansas
44	Nevada
45	Oklahoma
46	California
47	Arizona
48	Texas
49	New Mexico
50	Louisiana
51	District of Columbia

Equal Parents' Week

by Patti Diroff
CRC's National Equal Parents Week Coordinator

Wednesday, July 28, at 8:30 p.m., was truly a "Moment of Solidarity" as a message was sent not only around the country, but around the world. Chapters of the Children's Rights Council, joined by organizations and individuals in 26 states and three foreign countries, united their devotion to their families and their commitment to "The Best Parent Is Both Parents" by holding 38 public vigils and 59 home vigils.

We are excited that participation in Equal Parents' Week spread outside the United States. This year, the Children's Rights Council was joined by Kids Need Both Parents and Nova Scotia Parenting Coalition in Canada, GRaN (Growing Relationships and Network Support), an Australian Grandparents organization, and Both Parents Forever in England.

CRC was joined by 17 organizations throughout the United States whose members held public and home candlelight vigils. A roll call of these organizations includes:

Alabama:	Alabama Family Rights Association (AFRA) (2 vigils)
California:	Coalition of Parent Support (3 public vigils and 15 home vigils)
	Arroyo Seco Extended Student Services daycare center in Livermore
Kansas:	Kidsview
Maine:	Maine Dads (2 vigils)
Mass:	Coalition for the Preservation of Fatherhood
Michigan:	The Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect in Jackson County
	Fathers and Children Together (FACT)
	Fathers for Equal Rights
New York:	New York Men's Action Network
	Fathers for Children
	World Wide Divorced Parents
Pennsylvania:	Fathers' & Children's Equality Bucks County (FACE)
Tennessee:	DADS of Tennessee, Inc. (2 vigils)
Virginia:	Equal Parents Equal Time of the Roanoke Valley
Washington:	TABS (Taking Action Against Bias in the System)
Wisconsin:	Wisconsin Fathers for Children & Family

CRC participation included chapters in Colorado, Georgia (3 vigils); Ohio CRC/Pace and Northwest Ohio Chapters; 22 home vigils held by members of the Nebraska/Iowa Chapter; a large home vigil held by Maryland members Robert and Sandra Snow; a candlelight vigil held by Massachusetts chapter members Carolyn Brumber and her son Michael; home vigils held by North Carolina Chapter; a large home vigil held by CRC Ohio member Debra Riggs; and a large home vigil held in Virginia by CRC member Carissa Swain Kopp. The New Jersey Chapter took the lead—again—and its members held 8 vigils throughout the State!

Other participation included persons who held home vigils in Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Texas.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all CRC members, and a special message of appreciation to everyone outside CRC who joined with CRC in sending our message this year. We extend an invitation to everyone to help us to make next year's message even stronger. Every purple ribbon and every vigil lends a voice to the message we are trying to send, and EVERY PERSON COUNTS in helping to send this message!

Patti Diroff, the National Coordinator, can be reached at (909) 591-3689 and pattidiroff@worldnet.att.net.

Continued on page 11

5,600,000 Children Have Access to Non-Custodial Parent Interfered With

CRC has been asked to repeat an item from the Fall, 1998 "Speak Out for Children" newsletter: In 1995 and 1996, the Children's Rights Council estimated that 6,600,000 children have difficulty in obtaining access to their non-custodial parents. As child and family advocates around the country know, legislatures and the courts do little to encourage active parenting for the one million of children affected by divorce each year. Based on new evaluations of research by Richard Kuhn, of CRC, we now estimate that almost 5,600,000 children have difficulty in obtaining access to their non-custodial parents.

CRC has revised the figure down from 6,600,000 to almost 5,600,000 for the following reasons:

Other Researchers Have Weighed In

In the past, CRC reviewed literature, including Wallerstein and Kelly's book entitled *Surviving the Break-up*, that said there was interference with access in 25 percent to 50 percent of all cases. We used a middle figure of 37 percent. Using 37 percent of 18,000,000 children of divorce (1 million a year times 18 years that children are considered minors), we arrived at the number 6,600,000.

However, we observe that other researchers are using numbers of between 25 percent to 40 percent for access interference. CRC has essentially split the difference to arrive at an estimated figure of 32 percent.

Data Findings Include Shared Parenting

Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics, approximately 20 percent of children of divorced families are in equal shared-parenting situations.

Equal shared parenting means that there is approximately 50/50 percent sharing of time between two parents on a year-round basis. This figure has doubled since 1990, when only about 10 percent of children were estimated to be in equal shared parenting situations.

CRC and our chapters need grant and proposal writers.

!!News Flashes!!

Have You Had Trouble Getting an Access Grant?

✷ A House Committee will soon hold hearings on the access (visitation) grants. If you have trouble obtaining such a grant, or the grants are not being run right in your state, write to Rep. Nancy Johnson, Chair, Human Resources Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Committee, Rayburn Office Building Room B317, Washington, D.C. 20515, and send it to CRC. We will present all letters to her. CRC plans to testify that Congress should

- increase from $10 million to $50 million each year the amount that states receive for access grants, and
- have the states subcontract more with non-profits groups that have experience in counseling non-custodial parents.

A Drop-Off and Pick-Up Site Is Fundable!

✷ Start a neutral drop-off and pick-up site in your state! If you would like information on how to do this, contact Al Ellis, Director of Child Access Services, CRC. This is a fundable program that helps people!

Funds for Juvenile Justice Programs Available

✷ Will you get your share of the billions of dollars in the Juvenile Justice bill? Congress will soon decide how to allocate billions of dollars for programs to prevent youth crime, including gang prevention, after-school programs, crime prevention, mentoring, and neutral drop-off and pick-up sites for children. Children of single-parent families are more likely to get into trouble. Subcontracts with non-profit groups are permitted by the states under the recently enacted Juvenile Justice bill. Almost every group that reads this newsletter could qualify for one or more of those programs by working with parents at early intervention, counseling parents, etc. Contact your Congress member for information and work with your mayor or governor's office that handles Juvenile Justice programs.

CRC's 12th National Conference September 22-26

Ross

Meyer

Braver

Engel

Steinberg

Child Support Commissioner David Gray Ross, Catherine Meyer, the wife of the British ambassador to the U.S., book author Sanford Braver and many other distinguished writers, researchers, public officials, judges, and custody reform advocates will speak at CRC's 12th national conference September 22-26, 1999.

The theme of the conference is "Keeping Children First in the 21st Century."

The conference is at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia, two miles from National Airport.

The conference includes Hot New Tips About Kids of Divorce, the Parental Alienation Syndrome, The Legal and Social Issues of Psychiatric Diagnosing and Drugging of Children, How to Obtain Access (visitation) Grants, Congressional and Legislative V.I.P. breakfast, Stepfamily Issues, Co-Parenting Agreements, Jobs, Not Jail for Unwed Parents, and many other panels and topics.

The conference includes a banquet, bookfair, exhibits, entertainment by the Virginia Council on Indians, Book and Author Luncheon, Media Luncheon, and other special features.

Some of the speakers:

Catherine Meyer, wife of the British Ambassador to the U.S., who has not seen her children in 5-1/2 years because the German father of the children refuses to allow her access. The case has received international attention. Lady Meyer has appeared on major talk shows, sometimes mentioning CRC as a group that she is working with to draw attention to the case.

David Gray Ross, Commissioner of Child Support, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who is working to make the child support office more family friendly. **David Arnaudo,** who works under Ross, administers the $10 million a year in access/visitation grants to the states.

Sanford Braver, author of "Divorced Dads—Shattering the Myths," and major national researcher on the phenomenon known as "pushed away and forced away fathers."

Some other speakers include **Herman M. Frankel, M.D., Ron J. Clark, M.P.P. Cathy Young, Kathleen Parker, Ron Haskins, John Guidubaldi, Ed.D., Scott Browning, Ph.D., Jean McBride, M.S., Ann Warshauer, Scott Browning, Ph.D., Serge Prengel, Peter Breggin, M.D., Dean Tong, Jeffery Leving, Kay Pasley, Ed.D., Gerald Solomon and Ron Milko, attorneys, Margorie Engel, Vicki Lansky, Douglas Darnall, Ph.D., Ron J. Clark, Barbara F. Steinberg and Philip Stahl, Ph.D.**

For information on the conference, call CRC at 202-547-6227.

See you at the conference!

Senate Created Child's Day in 1999

The U.S. Senate passed a resolution creating a National Child's Day the first Sunday in June, 1999.

The resolution was sponsored by Sen. Bob Graham (D-FL), and passed the Senate unanimously.

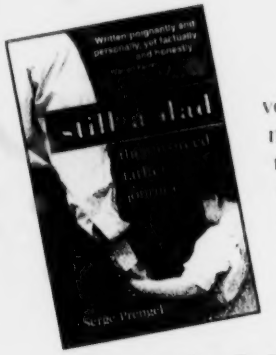
Graham sent a letter to CRC saying "Today, in these modern times, families are often separated for many reasons and 'National Child's Day' gave them a chance to be involved with their children and their lives. We extend our thanks for your emphasis on children and for your endless work on 'National Child's Day.' Without the support of you and the members of your organization, this monumental legislation and appreciation of children would not have been successful."

Because Sen. Orrin Hatch (R) wants to observe Children's Day in 2000 on a Sunday in the Spring, the future of "Children's Day" as an observation in June is in question.

We thank CRC members for their letters and faxes which helped the Senate to pass this resolution in 1999. If any CRC members would like to work on establishing a Children's Day AS A PERMANENT HOLIDAY the first Sunday in June, contact CRC.

Things I'm Learning as I Promote my Book, "Still a Dad"

by Serge Prengel,
former president, CRC of New York City



I've been involved in CRC for many years. Over the years, I have devoted time and effort to publicizing the cause of shared-parenting, locally in New York City and nationally. Like many other activists, I've had my share of small successes as well as frustrations.

Something really different has been happening for the past few months. On the one hand, I have suddenly seen a lot more interest in the media—I've done dozens and dozens of interviews across the nation, and more are forthcoming. On the other hand, I have also experienced in a powerful way the sensation of banging my head against a wall. All of this has been happening as I have been promoting my book (*Still A Dad: The Divorced Father's Journey*).

I'm writing this article to share with you the lessons I have been learning. At the end of this article, I will make suggestions on how CRC chapters can use books and authors to educate the media and the public about the plight of non-custodial mothers and fathers and the benefits of shared parenting for children.

First, I will start with good news—the dozens of interviews. Well, it feels good to know that there is interest out there for what we have to say. There are a lot of sympathetic people who are willing to listen and learn more about our experiences.

Many people in the media already know a lot about what it's like, and are actually happy to have guests that can articulate it for their readers and listeners. For instance, a suave radio show host turns out to also be a loving divorced father who misses the frequent contact he used to have with his children. Another is a grandmother whose grandchildren are slipping away from her as a consequence of divorce. And it is especially touching to be interviewed by an adult child of divorce—somebody who, after all these years, is still trying to make sense of what happened.

Now, all of this is in sharp contrast to my experience before the book—getting relatively little response from the media. The difference? The book. Journalists respond to it, because it's clear and easy to read. They quote from it. They feel comfortable referring to it. The book can become a focus around which to build a show—the host will invite a local activist and discuss the topics raised by the book.

So what's the lesson I want to share from this good news?

There's a lot of goodwill, even if it's not that visible as you go along trying to get media interested, as you send press releases and make phone calls that remain largely unanswered.

If they're not responding, try something else. For one thing, try sending them books—my books, or some other books you like. Work with the authors to create publicity. That's usually a winning combination to get attention from the media; a book and a local group—it shows there is a local constituency. Besides, radio interviews are easy on authors because they don't involve travel, it's usually all done by phone.

Now for the bad news. The book trade does not have much faith in books for or about fathers. Bookstores are reluctant to carry many of them—fearing there's not much of a market for them. This, in turn, makes it much more difficult for books about men to reach their public.

There is a remedy. It is to become more actively involved in asking for what we want. When there's a book you like—whether mine or any other—make noise around it. It takes very little individual effort. Ask your bookstore to order it (there's no obligation on your part). Ask your public library to carry it—so that others will have a chance to be exposed to it.

There's a further degree of activism which requires a little more effort—but not that much. Ask your bookstore or library to organize a reading/discussion of "Still a Dad"—or any other book or group of books. This kind of event can help build traffic—more people getting to the library or bookstore, but also more people hearing about your organization.

I'd like to conclude with some concrete suggestions. I would like each chapter to include books and authors in their public relations activities. I believe two simple steps can help:

1. We need a Speakers Bureau function at CRC—to maintain a list of authors who are representative of CRC's positions and how they can be contacted...so that each chapter has this resource easily available. I'd be happy to start this until somebody else volunteers to take over. I will post this list on the Web in the Fall.
2. We'll learn more if we coordinate our efforts—exchanging information about what works best. I am willing to start being the contact person - here again, until somebody else volunteers for the job.

I would love to hear from you. You can email me at: serge@divorcedfather.com or call me at 212-337-3737.

Amicus Briefs May Be Available

If your case is on appeal, and you would like CRC to consider writing an amicus brief, contact CRC. CRC cannot handle cases at the trial level, and we do not write the main appeal brief. An amicus brief is a supplemental brief, telling the court why this case is of significance not only to the parties in the case, but to other children and families as well. We generally need 30 to 60 days before the filing deadline.

Legislation Update

Here are some important bills and resolutions in Congress affecting families. Write to your House member or Senator to let them know what you think of a particular bill. They do not get enough mail on issues of concern to CRC members. So contact them! Let them know what sort of legislation you would like to see passed!

Write

Senator —— (name)
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative — (name)
Washington, D.C. 20515

House Bills

Andrews

H.R. 521. Denial of Passports to Noncustodial Parents in Cases of Nonpayment of Child Support. Introduced by Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ). Referred to House International Relations Committee and the House Subcommittee for International Operations and Human Rights. It is a bill that would deny passports to noncustodial parents subject to State arrest warrants in cases of nonpayment of child support awards.

Write to Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman, (R-NY), House International Relations Committee and Chairman Christopher Smith (R-NJ), House Subcommittee for International Operations and Human Rights, Washington, D.C. 20515, asking that passports should also be denied to individuals subject to State arrest warrants in violation of custody and access/visitation orders.

H.R. 816. Child Support Enforcement Act. Introduced by Rep. Christopher Cox (R-CA). Referred to House Ways and Means Committee. It is a bill to require a parent who is delinquent in child support to include his unpaid obligation in gross income, and to allow custodial parents a bad debt collection for unpaid child support payments.

H.R. 833. Sec. 149 sets forth duties of the bankruptcy trustee under Chapters 7 and 13 regarding a claim against an individual debtor for the collection of child support, notifying the claim holder and appropriate State child support agency of the debtor's location. Sec. 152 denies automatic stay protection to withholding of income payment for payment of certain domestic support obligations and for the commencement or continuation of a proceeding: (1) concerning child custody or visitation; (2) alleging domestic violence; or (3) seeking dissolution of marriage (except to the extent the proceeding concerns property of the estate).

Introduced by Rep. George Gekas (R-PA) and passed in the House; the bill may be considered by Senate Judiciary Committee this Fall.

H.R. 1488. Compassion for Children and Child Support Enforcement Act of 1999. Introduced by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL). Referred in the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. Compassion for Children and Child Support Act of 1999. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and Social Security Act to repeal provisions relating to the State enforcement of child support obligations and the disbursement of such support and to require the Internal Revenue Service to collect and disburse such support through wage withholding and other means.

S.Res. 125 Resolution encouraging and promoting greater involvement of fathers in their children's lives and designating June 20, 1999 as "National Father's Return Day." Introduced by Senator J. Lieberman (D-CT) and passed by the Senate on June 18, 1999.

Senate Bills

Biden

S. 51 Title III Study of Child Custody Laws in Domestic Violence Cases. Authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to States and Indian tribal governments to enable them to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements to assist public or private non-profit entities in establishing and operating supervised visitation centers for purposes of facilitating supervised visitation and visitation exchange of children by and between parents. Requires that priority be given to States that consider domestic violence in making a custody decision and require findings on the record. Introduced by Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE). Currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sec. 302. Directs the Attorney General to study and report to Congress on Federal and State laws relating to child custody, including the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980, and their effect on child custody cases in which domestic violence is a factor. Requires study to examine the burdens and risks encountered by victims of domestic violence arising from compliance with the full faith and credit (and judicial jurisdiction) requirements of that Act.

CRC recommends that you write to Sen. Biden and to your own U.S. senators urging that neutral drop-off and pick-up of children sites should be given even higher priority in S. 51, Title III, because more unwed, separating and divorced

parents have communication problems than are engaged in violence.

CRC recommends that you state that Sec. 302 of the proposed law should direct the Attorney General to also report on the frequency of use and effect of false allegations of abuse in the midst of custody or access/visitation battles, which have been noted by the American Bar Association and other organizations. We must deal with false abuse accusations in order to more fully help children who really have been abused, as officials in Texas and other states have decided.

S. 1033. Child Support Penalty Fairness Act. Introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Referred to Senate Finance Committee. It is a bill to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to coordinate the penalty for the failure of a State to operate a State child support disbursement unit with the alternative penalty procedure for failures to meet data processing requirements.

Write to Sen. Feinstein and your own U.S. senators urging that the penalty for failure to implement the full faith and credit interstate access/visitation law should result in financial penalties to the state.

S.1036. Children First Child Support Reform Act of 1999. Introduced by Sen. Herb Kohl (D-WI). Referred to Senate Finance Committee. A bill to amend parts A and D of title IV of the Social Security Act to give States the option to pass through directly to a family receiving assistance under the temporary assistance to needy families program all child support collected by the State and the option to disregard any child support that the family receives in determining a family's eligibility for, or amount of, assistance under that program.

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new addresses to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20002.

Equal Parents' Week

Continued from page 6

"It's All About the Children"

Arroyo Seco Extended Student Services daycare center in Livermore, California held a special candlelight vigil on July 28. Both custodial and noncustodial parents were invited, and six small children in the center also attended. Judy Salinas-Poper, who helps run the daycare center, understands that "it's all about the children" because she sees how divorce affects children.

Judy made rolled up candles out of purple construction paper and yellow construction paper flame for the children. The children also lit candles with a birthday candle and at the end...each child blew out a candle, which they enjoyed.

In Judy's words, "We can screw up anywhere in our lives but not when it comes to the children. They are the future and we hold their promise in our hands."

CRC NEEDS

* Free office space. Get a tax write-off as you help kids and CRC. 1,200 square feet or more anywhere in the Washington, D.C. area (Maryland, D.C. or Virginia)..

  And our chapters around the country need office space, too!

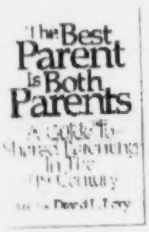
* A new photocopy machine. Martin Lopez of Minnesota was nice enough to donate a new Lanier photocopier to us about 10 years ago, but it has worn out, and we need a one.

  Our chapters could use photocopiers, too!

* Our chapters need computers.

* Lawyers to write CRC Amicus Briefs on appeal.

Order CRC Book and Make Money!



Order bulk copies (10 or more) of the still popular 1993 publication, *The Best Parent is Both Parents*, for only $4 a copy. Resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization!

You can also give copies to judges, policymakers, and others to help educate them on the issues of concern to you and CRC.

Send checks to CRC, and copies will be mailed to you. For orders of 20 copies or fewer, add $5 for shipping (to one address). For orders of more than 20 copies, shipping cost is included.

Individual copies will continue to be available from CRC for $10 each, plus $4 for postage, as long as supplies last.

If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names) and your autographed copy will be sent to you.

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Chapter News

The Winning Story

Terry Cady

CRC chapters and national officers speak on the phone cross-country every two months. All state chapter heads are invited to be on the call to help coordinate efforts and to stimulate chapter development.

A new feature of those calls is to pick out the most interesting story, as voted on by the chapter heads themselves, and to feature it in this newsletter.

The "winning" story for the April, 1999 conference call was a description of an access grant being run by Terry Cady, Illinois's CRC coordinator. CRC Wisconsin coordinator Nancy Kellogg participated in the discussion.

Cady described a $200,000 grant he received under the Illinois access/visitation program to provide services for DuPage County.

Joseph Mason, who coordinates access programs for the state of Illinois, and who also runs financial child support programs and job programs for unwed parents, came to a CRC conference, where he met Cady.

That meeting contributed to Cady's competing for and being awarded the $200,000 grant for DuPage County, near Chicago.

Judges in DuPage County have made delivery of access services part of their responsibility, and the DuPage County Psychological Association, headed by Angela Zolato, works with the courts to deliver the services.

"This is the most comprehensive access/visitation program in Illinois, includes everything," says Cady—mediation, education, access (visitation) neutral drop-off and pick-up of children, and supervised access (visitation), a comprehensive data collection on how these programs are working, which includes after-the-fact focus groups on the impact of the services they received.

Questions asked are: Did the services improve children's lives as well as have an impact on the non-custodial parents involvement with his children?

"We think the programs are working well," said Cady, "and we look forward to a second year of administering these services."

Access Centers in D.C. Area

CRC is expanding operations in the Washington, D.C. area. A new Child Access Transfer Center will open in the Fall in Fairfax County, Virginia. This Center will be operated in cooperation with the Circuit Court of Fairfax County. Fairfax is the largest county in the Metropolitan DC area.

The CRC Baltimore Chapter will open a Child Access Transfer Center in the Fall in cooperation with the Circuit Court in Baltimore County.

In keeping with CRC tradition there will be no fees to parents for these services. We continue to use our volunteers at these Centers.

A Supervised Child Access Center will also open in Prince George's County, Maryland. This Center is in cooperation with the Circuit Court of Prince George's County. Although some paid staff is required to provide security at the supervised access center, there is no cost to parents. CRC received an access grant from the state of Maryland to provide this service.

CRC has developed a tool kit to help chapters start Child Access Transfer Centers. If you want a copy, please contact Al Ellis at CRC Headquarters.

CRC Chapters in Four States; New Coordinator in Alaska

CRC is expanding! We now have chapters in 33 states, Washington, D.C. and Japan. Alphabetically, the new chapters are as follows:

Alabama

CRC has not had a chapter in Alabama for several months. We thank Richard C. Weiss, a doctor of veterinary medicine, for re-energizing CRC in Alabama. Most of the members of the new CRC of Alabama chapter are already members of the Alabama Family Rights Association, which has worked in the Alabama legislature for the past few years. The group will continue to help protect the right of a child to frequent contact with both parents after divorce. Dr. Weiss, the father of two children, Emily and Hannah, is remarried to Deborah, and lives in Auburn.

Alaska

Gary Maxwell, who used to be CRC's coordinator in Alaska, is now back in that job. Gary has his own business, Child Support Services in Anchorage, which helps non-custodial parents deal with difficulties they experience with the child support system, and the courts. Gary is so knowledgeable about custody and support that attorneys call him for consultations! Gary is the father of a boy and a girl, Brandon, 12, and Brittany, 14.

Connecticut

CRC has not had a chapter in Connecticut for several years, partially because able Bob Adams, who headed a chapter, has been ill. Mark has started a new Connecticut chapter that plans to work on legislation and court watch. Mark Roseman, an insurance agent, is the father of two daughters, Allison, 16; Stefanie, 12, and a son, Andrew, 7. His group plans to monitor legislation, do court watch, and help parents deal with the problems associated with separation and divorce.

Philadelphia

For the first time, CRC has a chapter in Philadelphia. It will be headed by Rita A. Jones, a grandmother and former social worker with the city of Philadelphia, who has worked in a battered women's shelter. "It is important for CRC members to listen to the concerns of battered women, and someone like Rita A. Jones will help us do that," said William J. Clements, a family law attorney in Philadelphia, who is the new group's treasurer.

West Virginia

For the first time in many years, CRC has a chapter in West Virginia. Ginger Thompson, who was instrumental in gaining passage of a strong joint custody law in West Virginia (see page 1) heads the chapter. Ginger became involved in divorce reform because her significant other is a non-custodial father who had trouble getting to see his child, Jonathan, 5.

Sign or Get a Friend, Relative, or Colleague to Sign The Petition to Stop Anti-Joint Custody Resolution in Congress

Thanks to the hundreds of people who have already sent CRC a petition for House Speaker Hastert. But we need more petitions!

The more friends of children who sign, the better.

Mail or fax the petition to CRC. We will present all petitions to Speaker Hastert.

Visit CRC's Expanded Web Site at WWW.GOCRC.COM

Children's Rights Council

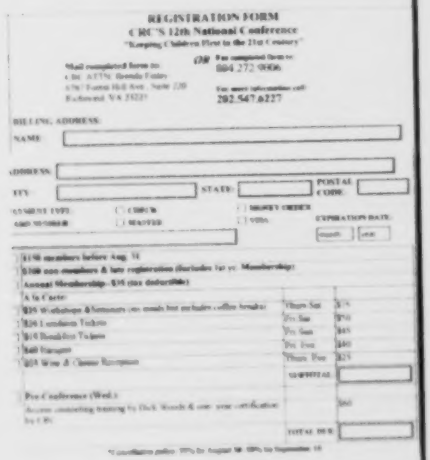
202.547.6227

Suite 401, 300 I ("eye") Street NE, Washington, DC 20002

HOME | ACT NOW! | NEWS & VIEWS | ACCESS/VISITATION | EVENTS & ACTIVITIES
RESEARCH & REPORTS | ORGANIZATION | INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS | MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL

The Children's Rights Council is expanding its presence on the web. CRC now has its own domain and can now accept online credit card payments for conference registration, memberships (new and renewals), and donations on a secure server using an SSL certificate.

We have added a few new areas. Visit "Act Now!" to find out how YOU can help children and families now. Check out the "News & Views" area to keep up-to-date on current legislation. Also check "Access (Visitation)" to learn what CRC is doing to promote childrens' access to both parents and what you can do in your state. "Events & Activities" will list local and national CRC-supported activities you can join.


REGISTRATION FORM
CRC'S 12th National Conference

Check back often because we will be making additions in the near future, including "Shop CRC", an online store featuring a full catalog of books and tapes.

We would like to express our gratitude to Paul Vixie for giving us our start on the web and for generously hosting our site for the past several years.

Browse our new site to see what we have to offer and remember to "Act Now!"

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RETURN THIS ENTIRE SHEET TO
Children's Rights Council
300 I Street N.E., Suite 401
Washington, D.C. 20002

FAX: 202/546-4272

PETITION TO THE SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PLEASE DON'T CUT OFF CHILDREN FROM THEIR PARENTS!

The Undersigned Hereby Petitions the House of Representatives to Stop Sec. 241 of H.R. 357, which asks the States to abolish their joint custody (shared parenting) statutes!

Speaker of the House
J. Dennis Hastert
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

I ask you to stop an anti-joint custody resolution that is Sec. 241 of H.R. 357 (the Violence Against Women Act).

Sec. 241 is a resolution that would ask the states to "have a presumption that children shall have their main physical residence with their primary caretaker parent unless that parent is unfit."

To include this resolution in the Violence Against Women Act is a clever and indirect way to abolish joint custody. We all strongly oppose violence against women, but we realize that we can protect women and society without abolishing shared parenting.

Please don't cut children off from their parents! Children need their dads and their moms whenever possible to help them do well, to avoid crime and drugs, and to achieve their goals.

Please have the House of Representatives stop Sec. 241. Thank you on behalf of children and families across this great country.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Address _____

_____

Date _____

I have signed the above letter. Detach and deliver it to House Speaker Hastert.

I wish to support CRC's efforts to defeat this resolution and to continue our other important efforts. I would like to join or renew for $35 after my expiration date.

Here is an additional contribution of _____

Or charge my Visa _____ MC _____ AMEX _____ a total of $ _____.

Card # _____ Exp. date _____

My membership # (see back of newsletter) _____

___ I cannot or am not able to join, renew, or contribute at this time, but send my signed letter to Speaker Hastert anyway.

Permission is hereby granted to reproduce the petition with or without credit to CRC. We strongly urge you to reproduce it and return it to CRC, for presentation of many petitions to Speaker Hastert. Be sure to get your family and friends to sign. More copies of the petition are available from CRC. We appreciate your financial support to enable CRC to continue its work. Make your check or credit card payment to CRC and send to 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002, or fax credit card contribution to 202-546-4272. ***Or make a contribution to the CRC chapter in your state.***

Children's Rights Council

1999 CATALOG OF RESOURCES
for parents and professionals
MANY BOOKS DISCOUNTED!

BOOKS FOR KIDS

NEW!

I Love You More Than..., by Elizabeth Hickey and James Cohen. Illustrated by Lynda Smart Brown, 1998.
HB252 ---------- **$16.95**

Daddy Day, Daughter Day, by Larry and Chaia King, 1997. A true story of divorce told through both a child's and a father's perspective.
SB-215 ---------- **$12.95**

How to Survive Your Parent's Divorce: Kids Advice to Kids, by Gayle Kimball, 1994. Easy-to-read one-of-a-kind guide for young people and their parents as they reshape their lives post-divorce.
SB-112 ---------- ***Discount Price $4.00**

I Think Divorce Stinks, by Marcia Lebowitz, 1992. Helps children recognize that it is appropriate to have negative feelings about divorce and to express those feelings.
SB-2012 ---------- **$4.95**

Questions from Dad, by Dwight Twilley, 1994. An effective way to develop better relationships between children and their parents.
HB-240 ---------- ***Discount Price $7.00**

What am I Doing in a Stepfamily?, by Claire Berman, 1994. A children's book explaining how two families can be better than one.
SB-307 ---------- **$12.00**

It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear, by Vicki Lansky, 1998. Koko Bear can help children understand divorce and sends a good message.
SB-308 ---------- **$5.99**

The Divorce Workbook, by Sally Ives, David Fassler & Michelle Lasch, 1985 How to facilitate honest and open communication between adults and children at the traumatic time of separation and divorce. Q and A for kids.
SB-2010 ---------- ***Discount Price $6.00**

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

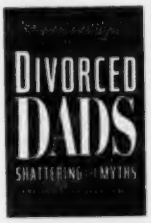
50/50 Parenting, by Gayle Kimball, Ph.D. Almost 300 co-parents and 83 children report on life in Married, Divorced, and Step-family situations.
SB-113 ---------- **$9.95**

The Adult Children of Divorce Workbook, by Mary Hirschfeld, 1992. Visualization exercises help readers root our destructive feelings left over from their childhood.
SB-2009 ---------- ***Discount Price $5.00**

Divorce Book for Parents, by Vicki Lansky, 1987. Warmly supportive and reassuring, this comprehensive guide speaks to all divorced and divorcing parents.
HB-204 ---------- ***Discount Price $9.00**

The Divorce Decisions Workbook, by Margorie Engel, 1992. Planning and action guide with 55 formulas to help you in four key decision areas:financial, legal, practical, and emotional.
SB-2006 ---------- ***Discount Price $7.00**

NEW!



Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths, by Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., 1998. The surprising truth about fathers, children and divorce.
HB-250 ---------- **$24.95**

For the Sake of the Children, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, 1992. Discusses how to share your children with your ex-spouse despite your anger. Kline is CRC's Florida coordinator. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
HB-216 ---------- ***Discount Price $9.00**

Divorce: Crisis, Challenge, or Relief?, by David A. Chiriboga and Linda S. Catron, 1991. Addresses the impact of divorce on children through different stages of their lives.
SB-231 ---------- **$22.50**

Why Parents Disagree: How Women and Men Parent Differently and How We Can Work Together, by Dr. Ron Taffel, 1994. An explanation of why parents begin to lead different lives and how parents can raise kids as partners, not enemies.
SB-236 ---------- **$23.00**

The Good Divorce, by Constance R. Ahrons, Ph.D., 1994. An outstanding book with a powerful message: while divorce is not 'good,' there is a path to a 'good divorce' where parents cooperate fully for the sake of their children.
HB-2001 ---------- **$23.00**

Helping Your Children through Divorce, Florence Bienenfeld, Ph.D.,1995. A resource book depicting the impact of divorce on children.
SB-201A ---------- ***Discount Price $7.00**

The Joint Custody Handbook, by Miriam Cohen, 1991. A 1991 update of one of the classic books on joint custody. Contains sample parenting agreements. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
HB-213 ---------- **$10.95**

A Hole in My Heart, by Claire Berman, 1991. A book that will enable adult children of divorce to recognize the role they play in changing patterns in their lives.
SB-225 ---------- ***Discount Price $8.00**

Families Apart, by Melinda Blau, 1993. 10 Keys to Successful Co-Parenting. A blend of the author's own research, and that of other experts, and rich in anecdotal information.
SB-223A ---------- ***Discount Price $10.00**
HB-223B ---------- ***Discount Price $18.00**

REVISED!

Mom's House, Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., 1998. Making shared custody work: How parents can make two homes for their children after divorce. 100 **New** pages to this classic book!
SB-202 ---------- **$20.00**

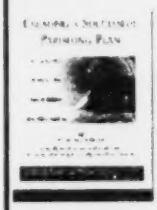
Negotiating Love: How Women and Men Can Resolve Their Differences, by Riki Robbins Jones, 1995. Points our destructive habits by both genders which, when realized, strengthen families and relationships.
SB-246 ---------- ***Extra Low Price* $3.00**

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Surviving Divorce, by Paula Weintraub and Terry Hillman, 1996.
SB-286 ---------- **$16.95**

Putting Kids First, by Michael Oddenino. A must read for caring parents and professionals, by CRC's General Counsel. Includes a children's bill of rights.
SB-248 ---------- **$9.95**

Second Chances, by Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, 1989. Based on ten year longitudinal study of the effects of divorce on adults and children.
HB-22 ---------- ***Discount Price $8.00**

Surviving the Break-Up, How Children and Parents Cope with Divorce, by Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D and Joan Kelly, Ph.D., 1980. A classic that is still valid in discussing the problems of children being raised by single parents.
SB-220 ---------- ***Discount Price $10.00**



NEW!
Creating a Successful Parenting Plan, by Dr. A. Jayne Major. Nationally acclaimed author of "Breaththrough Parenting" and "Winning the Custody War Without Casualties"
SB-280 ---------- **$24.95**

3 Steps to a Strong Family, by Linda and Richard Eyre, 1994. A 3-step program that can make your family life happier, less stressful, and more rewarding.
HB-281 ---------- **$19.50**

Familyhood: Nurturing the Values that Matter, by Dr. Lee Salk, 1992. A practical, inspiring guide to communicating values.
HB-282 ---------- **$21.00**

The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century, the CRC book edited by David L. Levy. Order bulk copies (10 or more) for only $4 a copy, resell the copies for the list-price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies will continue to be available from CRC for $10 each, plus $4 for postage, as long as supplies last. If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names).
SB-282 -------- **Order 10 copies or more each only $4.00**
---------- **Individual copies $10.00**

Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce, by M. Gary Neuman, L.M.H.C. 1996. This book is based on the nationally renowned "Sandcastles" workshop.
HB-284 ---------- **$25.00**

BOOKS FOR STEPARENTS

How to Win as a Stepfamily, by Emily Visher, Ph.D. and John Visher, M.D., 1982. The co-founders of the Stepfamily Association of America answer questions and give suggestions on how to make stepfamilies work.
HB-301 ---------- **$13.95**

Making it as a Stepparent, New Roles/New Rules, by Claire Berman, 1986. Former president of the Stepfamily Association of America provides practical help and insights.
SB-304 ---------- **$7.95**

Stepfamilies Stepping Ahead, edited by Mala Burt for the Stepfamily Association of America.
SB-303 ---------- **$9.95**

BOOKS FOR SINGLE PARENTS

Surviving Divorce—Women's Resources After Separation, by Mavis Maclean, 1991. Women coping with earnings, maintenance and welfare in the U.S., France, and Great Britain.
HB-819 ---------- ***Discount Price $5.00**

Another Way Home: A Single Father's Story, by John Thorndike, 1996. A memoir of Thorndike's life with his wife and the difficult decisions he has had to make regarding their son's life.
HB-651 ---------- **$24.00**

Fatherless America, by David Blankenhorn, 1995. Shows the devastating consequences of fatherlessness in both individual families and in our society.
HB-622 ---------- **$23.00**

The Masculine Mystique: The Politics of Masculinity, by Andrew Kimbrell, 1995. Presents the argument that American men are in crisis and includes what lead to this phenomenon.
HB-802 ---------- **$23.00**

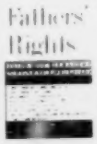
The Daddy Track and the Single Father, by Geoffery L. Greif, 1990. A book about successfully coping with kids, housework, a job, an ex-wife, a social life, and the courts.
HB-642 ---------- **$19.95**

Money-Smart Divorce. What Women Need to Know about Money and Divorce, by Esther M. Berger, 1996.
SB-251 ---------- **$22.00**

New!
Still a Dad, The Divorced Father's Journey, by CRC's own Serge Prengel, 1998. Published with praise from Warren Farrell, Karen DeCrow, and James A. Cook.
SB 252 ---------- **$13.95**

The Myth of Male Power, by Warren Farrell, 1993. Rock solid and authentic decimation of the myth of male advantage ...sweeps aside stereotyped assumptions to uncover a deeper truth.
SB-245 ---------- ***Discount Price $6.00**

Why Men Are the Way They Are, by Warren Farrell, 1986. Provides insights into loved one's secret insights and desires.
SB-243 ---------- ***Discount Price $3.00**

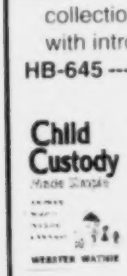


Fathers' Rights, by Jeffrey Leving. A best-selling book for fathers who want to maintain contact with their children.
SB-640 ---------- **$12.50**

The Divorced Parent: Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston, 1994. Provides practical advice and specific tools for raising well-adjusted children.
HB-643 ---------- **$21.00**

Father's Day, by Bill McCoy, 1995. Witty and wise notes from a new dad in the real world.
HB-644 ---------- **$22.00**

Like Father, Like Son, By Hunter S. Fulghum, 1996. A collection of stories on being a man at midlife in America, with introduction by Robert Fulghum.
HB-645 ---------- **$21.95**



Child Custody Made Simple, by Webster Watnik, 1997. Answers all your questions about child custody and child support for a single parent.
SB-641 ---------- **$21.95**

The Single Parent's Money Guide, by Emily Card, 1996. A plan for managing your money when you are the only one your family can count on.
SB-646 ---------- **$14.95**

MEDIATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Family Evaluations in Child Custody, Mediation, Arbitration and Litigation, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1989. In this update, Gardner proposes a three-phase system to remove child custody evaluations from courtroom litigation.
HB-603 ---------- **$45.00**

Healing Hearts, Helping Children and Adults Recover from Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, M.S.W., CRC's National Parent Education Director, and Elizabeth Dalton, attorney and mediator
HB-615 ---------- **$15.00**

Parent Vs. Parent: How You and Your Child Can Survive the Custody Battle, by Stephen P. Herman, M.D., 1990. Expert advice for parents through all stages of the divorce process.
HB-611 ---------- **$20.95**

Between Love and Hate, A Guide to Civilized Divorce, by Lois Gold, M.S.W., 1992. Learn the fundamental skills of negotiation conflict resolution and mediation, for everyone's good.
SB-605A ---------- ***Discount Price $9.00**

LEGAL ISSUES

A Family Divided, by Robert Mendelson, 1997. A discussion of a divorced father's struggle with the child custody industry.
HB-762 ---------- **$21.00**

The Custody Revolution, by Richard Warshak, 1992. The Father Factor and the Motherhood Mystique.
HB-702 ---------- ***Discount Price $15.00**

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V-902 ---------- **$25.00**

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V-904 ---------- **$20.00**

Psychotherapeutic & Legal Approaches To Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. An in-depth discussion of ways that parents can alienate the child against the other parent.
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REPORTS

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Family Facts

Why Kids Need Moms *And* Dads

Seventy-two percent of Americans believe that fatherlessness is the most significant family or social problem facing America.

Here are some sobering statistics:

- Forty percent of the children of divorced parents haven't seen their dads in the last year.
- Thirty-six percent of children, approximately 24.7 million, don't live with their biological father. In 1960, just 9 percent of children lived with one parent.
- The number of live births to unmarried women increased from 224,300 in 1960 to 1,248,000 in 1995, while the number of children living with never-married mothers grew from 221,000 in 1960 to 5,862,000 in 1995.
- A white teen-age girl with an advantaged background is five times more likely to be a teen mom if she grows up in a household headed by a single mom instead of with her biological dad and mom.
- Girls raised in single-mother homes are more likely to give birth while single and are more likely to divorce and remarry. Studies have shown that girls whose fathers depart before their 5th birthday are especially likely to have permissive sexual attitudes and to seek approval from others.
- Young children living without dads married to their moms are five times as likely to be poor and 10 times as likely to be extremely poor.
- Fatherless children are "at a dramatically greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse," says the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- When dads don't live with their kids, the children are 4.3 times more likely to smoke cigarettes when teen-agers.

But consider this:

- Children with fathers are twice as likely to stay in school.
- Boys with dad and mom at home are half as likely to be incarcerated, regardless of their parents' income or education level.
- According to a Men Against Domestic Violence survey, 85 percent of youths in prison are from fatherless homes.
- Girls 15-19 raised in homes with fathers are significantly less likely to engage in premarital sex, and 76 percent of teen-age girls surveyed said their fathers are very or somewhat influential over their decisions regarding sex.
- Paternal praise is associated with better behavior and achievement in school while father absence increases vulnerability and aggressiveness in young children, particularly boys.
- Children living in households with fathers are less likely to suffer from emotional disorders and depression.
- Children with involved dads are less susceptible to peer pressure, are more competent, more self-protective, more self-reliant and more ambitious.

Source: National Fatherhood Initiative, Washington, D.C.

TV Shows

Fatherless

A just-released National Fatherhood Initiative analysis found that of the 102 prime-time network TV shows in late 1998, only 15 featured a father as a central character. Of these, the majority portrayed the father as uninvolved, incompetent or both.

Source: The National Center for Public Policy Research, a non-partisan Capitol Hill think-tank.

Mothers Important to Children

It is a little known fact that, according to Census Bureau data, there are about 2 million non-custodial mothers in the U.S.

Mothers often have a worse time of not having custody than fathers, according to custody observers, because mothers are **expected** to have custody. When mothers do not have custody, people often think there must be "something wrong" with the mother. There is "nothing wrong" with the mother. Some mothers voluntarily relinquish custody to pursue educational or job opportunities. Other mothers lose custody in the "win-lose" battles that prevail in our domestic relations courts.

When the day comes that America replaces the win-lose situation of custody battles with a "win-win" situation in which a child has frequent and continuing contact with mom, dad, and extended family, "non-custodial mom" (like non-custodial dad) will go the way of the dodo bird, except in cases where more restrictive custody arrangements are needed to protect the child.

Source: The Children's Rights Council

From Volume 14, Number 2, Summer/Fall 1999, *Speak Out for Children*, newsletter of the Children's Rights Council
300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002-4389 phone (202) 547-6227

Children's Rights Council

In the Combined Federal Campaign,
Contribute to the Children's Rights Council (CRC)

CHILDREN'S CHARITIES OF AMERICA

We are a member of the Children's Charities of America (CCA). Look for CRC's listing in the index of the CFC Brochure, then turn to the page given for CCA's members.

The Children's Rights Council works to assure that children of separation and divorce obtain as much emotional and financial support as children of intact marriages.

Some of CRC's accomplishments:

- Credited with being the organization that convinced Congress, for the first time in history, to provide funds for access/visitation demonstration programs in 1988;
- The results of the above 1988 grants were so positive that in the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, Congress provided $10 million a year for **all** 50 states and jurisdictions to provide access/visitation programs;

- Publicized Census Bureau findings in 1998 that the states with the highest amount of joint physical custody in 1989–1990 had the lowest divorce rates in the subsequent years 1991–1995;
- Publicized findings that children with two parents generally have fewer problems with drugs and crimes than children with only one parent. Obtained changes in attitudes and laws in order to encourage a child's bonding to two parents and extended family;

- Promoted the school-based "Banana Splits" program to help children of separation and divorce channel the transition in their lives into stronger academic achievement;
- Award-winner for assisting a county outside Washington D.C. (Prince George's, MD) in hiring staff to improve bonding between children and their non-custodial parents; and
- Provided assistance to parents and professionals on how to get through the divorce process in the most peaceful, problem-free way, so as to take the stress out of divorce. Money that would be spent on battling between parents is available for the children.

CRC only receives funds that you actually designate!

The Children's Rights Council is a national non-profit organization at 300 "I" St., NE #401, Washington, D.C. 20002-4389. Phone: 202/547-6227 Fax: 202/546-4272. See our web site at http://www.vix.com/crc/

To obtain a copy of our Catalog of Resources, Directory of Parenting Organizations, Affiliation Book, Annual Report, or latest audit, write or call CRC. Thank you.

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Children's Rights Council®

In United Way, Workplace, and Corporate Campaigns, Contribute to the Children's Rights Council (CRC).

CRC works to strengthen families through education and advocacy. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and in the event of separation. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for emotional and financial child support. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

There are several ways you can contribute to the Children's Rights Council:

- through the Combined Federal Campaign if you work for the federal government at any federal office, post office, or military base;
- in the Washington, D.C. and San Francisco Bay Area United Way campaigns;
- if you wish to contribute to CRC through a United Way where we are not listed, please ask your employer if you can designate (write in) the Children's Rights Council;

- in corporate campaigns throughout the United States; or
- if you wish to contribute directly to CRC, write to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002-4389.

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Court Cases

Intentional Interference with Parent-Child Relationship

The Florida Supreme Court ruled on June 17 that a claim for intentional interference with the custodial parent-child relationship by a non-parent was actionable. However, the court appeared to confine application of this principle to the defense of custodial parents' rights. The court rejected a contention that the state's abolition of claims for alienation of affections precludes recognition of the cause at action. The cause was initiated by a divorced father, who brought a custodial interference claim against his daughter's maternal grandmother, her aunt, and their lawyer. The father said that the grandmother and aunt conspired to abduct the child while she was in her now-deceased mother's custody in Virginia. The Florida Supreme Court said that 16 state supreme courts had recognized the tort of intentional interference with the custodial relationship or abduction. The court pointed out that the tort of intentional interference with business relationships was recognized in Florida, and argued that the custodial relationship was entitled to no less legally recognized protection from unreasonable interference. Courts must be vigilant against abuse of the legal process, the Florida Supreme Court said. However, the court added, those who would bypass the legal system by taking children from persons who had a superior right to legal custody caused a far greater affront to the justice system.

(Stone v. Hall, Fla. No. 92499, 6/17/99).

Child Support and Unconventional Custody Situation

New Mexico's child support guidelines should be adapted to cover an unconventional custody situation, even if there is no statutory provision for the specific situation, the New Mexico Court of Appeals ruled in a decision released May 6. The court looked to "economic realities" to determine child support in a situation where each divorced parent had one of two children for a longer period than the other parent. The son lived 59 percent of his time with the father, and the rest with the mother. The daughter lived 71 percent of the time with the mother, and the rest of the time with the father. There is no provision in the state child support guidelines to cover such an arrangement. The court rejected the father's argument that the custodial arrangement should be classified as shared responsibility, because on average the children spent 44 percent of their time with him. Instead, the court said, the daughter's child support should be determined as if she were the sole child in a basic visitation arrangement, and the parents should be required to provide child support in accordance with their incomes. In regard to the son, the custodial arrangement was the equivalent of shared custody, and the shared custody rules should apply, the court said. Noting that the guidelines assumed that the additional expense of providing a home for the second child was much less than the additional expenses for the first child, the court decided that the mother—who has the lower income—would receive support at the full first-child level for the daughter, and support at the second-child level for the son. The mother will receive credit for her share of the cost of a second child during the son's stay with her. The father will receive credit for his share of a first child during the son's stay with him.

[Erickson v. Erickson, N.M. Ct. App., No. 19428, 4/1/99 released 5/6/99]

Unmarried Father's Rights

An unmarried father who paid child support was entitled to his say on adoption proceedings, even though there were no legal proceedings to establish paternity, the Indiana Court of Appeals held on May 24. Jack Walker, the man in question, was the putative father of an out-of-wedlock child born to Jennifer Campbell in 1991. He paid child support and exercised regular visitation. In July 1997, Campbell destroyed the child support check and refused to allow visitation. Three months later, Campbell's husband petitioned to adopt the child. The adoption petition stated that Walker's consent was not required, because he had abandoned the child, and had not had his paternity legally established. Although the mother and her husband did not notify Walker of the proposed adoption, he found out about it and objected. Nevertheless a court permitted the adoption to go ahead. However, the Appeals Court said that adoption statutes that operated to extinguish automatically Walker's rights without a notice or a hearing violated his due process rights under the federal and state constitutions.

[Walker v. Campbell, Ind. Ct. App., No. 17A03-9806-CV-279, 5/24/99]

Parental Alienation and Maintenance

A mother's poisoning of her teenage son's relationship with his father justified a reduction in the amount of maintenance the father must pay the mother, the New York Supreme Court, New York County, has ruled. The court found that the son's four-year estrangement from the father was a clear result of the mother's vindictive decision to alienate the child from the father. The court said that denial of all maintenance to the mother would adversely impact the child. It thus concluded that the father should pay her only the amount she reasonably needed to meet her daily living expenses. The award was contingent on the mother ensuring adherence to the current visitation schedule.

[R.B. v. S.B., Sup. Ct., NYLJ 3/31/99]

Father Loses Custody to Maternal Grandparents

The New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division, ruled May 28 that a child's maternal grandparents had a stronger claim to custody of an out-of-wedlock child than the child's father, following the death of the mother. The

child was born to a 17-year-old girl, who died 12 days after giving birth. The court concluded that the maternal grandparents had been the child's "psychological parents" since the death of the mother in August 1996. As a result, the court said it was in the child's best interests to remain with the grandparents. The father was granted liberal parenting time. A dissenter to the court's decision said the father should have been awarded custody, arguing that the appropriate standard was not the best interests of the child, but whether or not the father was a fit parent. By this standard, the father would have custody, the dissenter said.

[Watkins v. Nelson, N.J. App. Div., No. A-4552-97T1, 5/28/99]

The above cases are summarized from Family Law Reporter. They appear here by permission of the publisher, The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

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Inside CRC

New Board Member and Advisors

Terry Cady, Illinois's CRC coordinator, has been elected to the CRC Board of Directors. He will represent the CRC chapters. Cady, a senior vice president of Bank of America, administers a $200,000 access/visitation grant in DuPage County, Illinois.

Two other CRC state coordinators, Fred Wall of North and South Carolina, and Margaret Wuwert, of Ohio, will be advisors to the board from the chapters. The changes were approved by the CRC board, from suggestions by chapter heads as ways to increase chapter participation in the national board activities. "An organization is only as strong as its chapters," said CRC's CEO Sam Brunelli. CRC congratulates these appointees as we take steps to improve services to the chapters.

Mediation, Move-away Help

Leslee Newman, J.D., who has been giving free consultations on move-away issues to CRC members, is available for mediation consultations (at a fee). Leslee, who is a trained mediator, can be reached at 714-282-1515. Her husband Don Smith, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, is available for child custody evaluations. Don's number is 714-939-6678. Don and Leslee are both in Orange County, California, but can handle cases anywhere in the country.

A Way to Adjust the Guideline

Ask a state agency working on child support guidelines in your state to invite Don Bieniewicz, CRC's expert on guidelines, to testify.

Asking Bieniewicz to testify could help convince your state to adopt portions of the only guidelines we know of that is based on a child having two parents.

This CRC guideline, authored by Bieniewicz, was published by the federal government in a publication entitled "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation."

To obtain a copy of the federal publication, phone (202) 401-9383, which is the Office of Child Support Enforcement's Child Support Reference Center, located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, D.C. 20447. There is no charge for the publication, as long as supplies last.

Copies of the guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for $5.00 for CRC members, and $10.00 for non-members, including shipping and handling.

Write to Bieniewicz at 10004 Fairoaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, contact him via email at DonBien@erols.com, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

Donors Are Appreciated

CRC thanks everyone who contributes to CRC in the charity drive that takes place in all federal government offices every Fall. CRC is part of Independent Charities of America. We also thank those who contribute to CRC in the Washington, D.C., and San Francisco (Bay Area) United Way campaigns.

We also thank those who contribute to CRC through their United Way in some other part of the country, where we are not listed, but where employers may sometimes allow employees to designate CRC.

CRC depends on volunteer help and contributions for its existence.

If you wish to make your tax-deductible contribution directly to CRC, send it to CRC, 300 I Street, Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Parents Get Way to Lower Child Support

Dow Jones Newswires
July 28, 1999

Governor Jeb Bush

A controversial new Florida state law will give parents who pay child support a chance to lower their monthly payments.

Despite fierce opposition from a number of judges and attorneys, Gov. Jeb Bush (R) signed a measure that requires judges to consider the amount of time parents spend with their children in determining child support. When the new law takes effect October 1, all noncustodial parents with substantial visitation privileges will be eligible for a break in what they owe.

Rep. Steve Effman, a Democrat from Plantation, says he sponsored the legislation to prevent fathers, who represent up to 90 percent of noncustodial parents in Florida, from having to pay "double child support."

Beyond their monthly financial obligations, fathers incur additional expenses such as paying for housing, food, and other necessities during visits with their children, Rep. Effman said, and this places an undue burden on fathers who spend a considerable amount of time with their children. So he crafted a bill to make sure judges account for these extra costs when setting child-support levels.

"It's a matter of equity," said Rep. Effman.

The resulting legislation gives Florida one of the most liberal child-support standards in the nation. Twenty other states already have scaled back child support payments for active noncustodial parents, but in those states, parents must spend at least 90 days a year with their children, and sometimes more, before qualifying for lower payments. Precise formulas then dictate how much is owed.

Florida's new law has no such guidelines. It requires courts to adjust support payments whenever noncustodial parents spend a "substantial" amount of time with their children, however long judges determine that to be. After making that call, judges are free to set payments as they see fit, so long as they consider parents' income and expenses, among other factors.

Some Judges Object

But far from appreciating the extra discretion, many state judges are exasperated by the lack of guidance. In a June letter to Gov. Bush, six judges from the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida in Miami called for a veto of the law, arguing that its loose parameters amounted to "gobbledygook," absent any practical means of implementation. Trying to figure out exactly how much noncustodial parents spend on such things as the cost of an extra room for their children will be time-consuming, according to the judges; the effort, they said, would cause them "to leave each night with permanently crossed eyes."

Without clearly defined calculation methods, some lawyers fear child support will be set arbitrarily, such as it was 15 years ago, before the Legislature suggested awards for courts to issue. Those guidelines became mandatory in 1989, a year after the Legislature studied the issue and found child-support levels varied widely across the state. They are also often too low to support children.

"There's no question about it," says Judge Rosemary Barkett of Miami, who directed the study and is now a member of the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. "Those awards didn't go very far."

Now, some lawyers say, awards will be made in the same haphazard fashion, threatening the ability of divorced mothers to raise children.

The Florida chapter of the National Conference for Fathers and Children, one of the groups that pushed for the law, says that national studies have demonstrated that the more fathers see their children, the more likely they are to pay child support.

CRC note: The 20 percent of noncustodial parents who are mothers and their children should also benefit from the new law.

Ask your state legislators to pass a law similar to Florida's. Give credit for a child having two parents! Send the legislators this article.

Absence of Black Fathers Decried

by Cheryl Wetzstein
from The Washington Times
June 17, 1999

The "silence" about the absence of fathers in black homes has been broken, say scholars who released a statement about the "great social tragedy."

"What we're saying is that children need their fathers," said Obie Clayton Jr., director of the Morehouse Research Institute. Mr. Clayton told a news conference that a national effort to reconnect fathers with their children should be undertaken.

Data show that fatherlessness is rampant in black families, about 70 percent of black children are born to single mothers, and that fatherlessness is growing the fastest in white families. And 40 percent of all children live without their fathers, mostly because of divorce or unwed childbearing.

Children who grow up without their fathers are at heightened risk for problems in their physical and mental health, educational achievement, social behavior, careers and future family formation, said the Institute's report.

Study Implies that Primary Caretaker Doctrine is Shaky

The Washington Post (March 1, 1999) reported the results of a multi-year

study conducted by University of Massachusetts psychologist Elizabeth Harvey. The study found overwhelming evidence that the general quality of family is much more important in determining the child's later development than the question of whether or not the mother is employed. The data is collected in the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth and was published in the March issue of *Developmental Psychology*. The American Congress for Fathers and Children pointed out that basically, the study's results serve as a convincing counterargument to those trying to advance the notion that the primary caregiver should automatically become the custodial parent in divorces.

Family Facts

Photocopy and distribute the "Family Facts" on page 19! Use as hand-outs when visiting the Legislature, disseminating information to the courts or the media, or as a resource for testimony and Letters to the Editor. "Family Facts" is a regular feature of this newsletter. Send us your verified facts (with actual copies, sources and dates) to "Family Facts," CRC.

In Memory Of

Frank Anderson, who was CRC's Massachusetts coordinator, former international president of Parents' Without Partners, and superb political strategist, died in June, 1999, after a long bout with cancer. Anderson, of Revere, Massachusetts, and CRC officials visited various federal offices in years past pressing for legislation for policies that would encourage children to have access to both moms and dads. Anderson knew how to figure out the political landscape of any situation, and he did it with humor and gusto. He leaves his wife Mary and a son from a previous marriage.

CRC Wants Chapters in Every State

For development of chapters in states that do not yet have any CRC chapters, contact Ron Pilcher, 513/755-2932, or advisors to the CRC board Fred Wall in North Carolina and Margaret Wuwert in Ohio. (See their phone numbers on page 26).

Join CRC, then ask for a copy of the 100-page CRC booklet that explains everything you need to know about affiliation. The cost of the booklet is $15.00.

To form additional chapters in states that already have one or more chapters, contact the state coordinator or existing state chapter head listed on page 26.

THIS RIVETING EXPOSÉ REVEALS HOW JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, PSYCHIATRISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS VIOLATE LAW & ETHICS IN THEIR MISGUIDED ZEAL TO IDENTIFY A "PRIMARY PARENT"

One Divorced Father's Story

Every Father's and Child's Nightmare

A FAMILY DIVIDED
A Divorced Father's Struggle with the Child Custody Industry

by Robert Mendelson

Robert Mendelson's new book, A Family Divided, compellingly chronicles Dr. Michael Nieland's journey through the sad crimes we call family court, and along the way provides important advice to fathers facing the prospect of divorce as well as thoughtful recommendations to policy makers for change. Don't go to divorce court without having read this book!

Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., President of the National Fatherhood Initiative

A Family Divided is on target about the social ill that faces society today. I liken it to social cancer.

Sidney Siller, Chairman/Founder of the National Organization for Men

How to Purchase A FAMILY DIVIDED

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National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MWOC)
Jennifer Isham, coordinator
website only: http://www.motherswithoutcustody.org

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
Margorie Engel, president
Larry Kallenyn, Executive Director
650 J Street, Suite 205
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
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Joint membership in SAA and CRC: $35.00 for the first year

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SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN®

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$150 Million Fathers Count Act Passes in House

Johnson

Main Sponsors

Cardin

House Passes Bill to Help with Emotional and Financial Support; Senate Now Considers Measure

As part of its continuing efforts on welfare reform and welfare-to-work initiatives, the House of Representatives passed a $150 million "Fathers Count Act" (FCA) on November 10, 1999, by a vote of 328 to 93.

The Senate is considering S.1364, the Responsible Fatherhood Act of 1999, a similar bill which the Senate is expected to act on in early 2000.

The House bill is one of the first times that a branch of Congress has passed a bill to encourage the role of fathers as parents in low income families and to help fathers better provide for their children. Some observers have referred to this bill as a parenting bill, because it will have the ultimate purpose of assisting

Continued on page 3

Oklahama Moves Toward Equal Access of Child to Both Parents

Oklahoma has passed a Parentage Act that allows parents to have an equal time share with the child from the time of the first court hearing, if either parent asks for it.

Equal Time Share Provided at the First Court Hearing for Separating Parents in Oklahama

This may be the first time in any state that an equal time share is established from the time of the first hearing. Custody reform advocates in Oklahoma will be watching closely to see if judges implement this provision as intended, said Greg Palumbo, Ph.D., executive director of Oklahomans for Families Alliance.

The law states "It is the policy of this state to assure that minor children have frequent and continuing contact with parents who have shown the ability to act in the best interests of their children and to encourage parents to share in the rights and responsibilities of rearing their chil-

Continued on page 5

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The CRC

The Children's Rights Council (CRC) is a nation-wide, non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) children's rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

CRC works to strengthen families through education and advocacy. We favor family formation and family preservation, but if families break up, or are never formed, we work to assure a child the frequent and continuing contact with two parents and extended family the child would normally have during a marriage. Our motto is "The Best Parent is Both Parents."

For the child's benefit, CRC favors parenting education before marriage, during marriage, and for parents who are unwed or separated. We work to demilitarize divorce between parents who are involved in marital disputes, substituting conciliation and mediation for the adversarial process, and providing for emotional and financial child support. We work to strengthen fragile families of children whose parents are never-married. We also favor school-based programs for children at risk.

Formed in 1985 by concerned parents who have more than 40 years collective experience in custody reform and early childhood education, CRC has chapters in 32 states and two national affiliate organizations: Mothers Without Custody (MWOC) and the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA).

Prominent professionals in the fields of religion, law, social work, psychology, child care, education, business, and government comprise our Advisory Panel.

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Fathers Count Act

Continued from page 1

children to have more involvement by both parents in their lives. Some services and programs are expected to reach out to divorced parents, also.

"The projects will help fathers play an important role in their family through both the payment of child support and through good parenting of the child, and open communication with the other parent," said Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT), chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee, which led the way to passage of the bill.

Organizations Will Receive Funding

The $150 million would be for grants to public and private organizations which promote marriage through counseling, mentoring and enhancing relationship skills. The bill will encourage local efforts by requiring that 75% of the funding goes to non-governmental community based organizations. Preference for funding would go to organizations which promote successful parenting, through disseminating information about good parenting practices including family planning, encourage child support payments and regular access between fathers and their children.

It would assist in aiding fathers and their families to avoid or leave the welfare system, by providing activities such as job training, subsidized employment and education to advance job opportunities and careers.

The funding decisions will be made by two bipartisan panels—each consisting of ten members with six appointed by Congressional committees and two each by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and Secretary of Labor. The first panel will select and make recommendations for funding of projects totalling no more than $70 million in fiscal year 2001, while the second panel will select and make recommendations for projects that will begin in fiscal year 2002.

For each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2005, $3,750,000 is appropriated for the National Clearinghouse and the Multicity Fatherhood Projects.

In order to establish a national clearinghouse of information about fatherhood programs, the Secretary will make a $5 million grant to a national nonprofit fatherhood organization with at least four years of experience. For multicity fatherhood projects, two grants will be granted each year to national nonprofit fatherhood promotion organizations.

Comments on House Floor by Chairman Nancy Johnson

Johnson said: "This legislation will fund projects directed at helping poor fathers meet their responsibilities by promoting marriage, improving their parenting skills, and developing their earning power."

"Welfare reform has stimulated the development of far better services for the welfare dependent mothers; services that could help her identify her skills, provide her with the knowledge that could help her succeed in the work place, find a job and progress."

"Our goal is to help fathers find steadier employment and develop their careers...Our second goal is to help them [fathers] develop a better relationship with their child and with the child's mother. Why? Because kids need dads. Dads count, just like moms count."

"We must, in sum, help those mostly young adults create a more stable environment economically and emotionally for their children so their children will enjoy the opportunity kids should have in America." "...A recent study by renowned researcher Sara McLanahan of Princeton University shows that at the time of non-marital births, over half of the parents are cohabitating and about 80 percent say they are in an exclusive relationship that they hope will lead to marriage or at least become permanent.

It seems reasonable to us that if we develop ways to support these young couples...they may be able to maintain their adult relationship and developing their parenting relationship.

Even if the parents remain separate, the projects help fathers play an important role in their family through both the payment of child support and through good parenting of the child and open up communication with the other parents."

Comments on House Floor by Ben Cardin, Ranking Democrat on Human Resources Subcommittee

Cardin said: "Under the Act, 150 million dollars in competitive grants will be made available for communities to encourage fathers to become a consistent and productive presence in the lives of their children, whether through marriage or through increased visitation and the payment of child support."

"These new grant funds can be used for a wide array of specific services, including counseling vocational education, job search, and retention services, and even subsidized employment."

"The underlying premise of the Fathers Count Act is children are better off emotionally and financially when both of their parents are productive parts of their life."

Contact Your U.S. Senators

Ask them to support the "Responsible Fatherhood Act" (S. 1364) introduced by Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Evan Bayh (D-IN).

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- Free office space. Get a tax write-off as you help kids and CRC. 1,200 square feet or more anywhere in the Washington, D.C. area (Maryland, D.C. or Virginia).
- A new photocopy machine.
- Volunteers to help with filing, phone calls, and writing letters.
- Our chapters need computers.
- Lawyers to write CRC Amicus Briefs on appeal.

Our chapters around the country could use office space, photocopiers, and volunteers, too!

Levy

The CRC View

by David L. Levy

It was heartening to see the House of Representatives pass a $150 billion fatherhood bill in November—a bill that doesn't identify fathers only as child support obligors, but which also sees them as parents who make a real contribution to their children's lives.

Nancy Johnson, Republican of Connecticut, turned out to be as excellent at shepherding this bill to passage as Clay Shaw of Florida who preceded her. He introduced the original version of the Fathers Count bill a year ago.

The bill passed the House by a 3 to 1 majority, after Shaw took over the chairmanship of a different committee.

In strong words on the House floor, Johnson made it clear that she views fathers as parents, competent and caring.

The truth is that kids need both parents, moms and dads. Programs have been running for 30 years to only help moms, including policies telling a single-parent that she could not live with a low-income wage earning father, and still receive welfare. Policies which commanded the mother to kick the low-waging earning father out of the house in order for her to obtain public housing. Policies that said only a mother could obtain custody of her children.

"Two-parent families need not apply" has been the sign on the door of hundreds of government programs over the past generation—in housing, welfare, custody courts, and a myriad of other government programs that have cost the U.S. billions, and produced many wasted lives.

In other words, the government has been creating a generation of single-parent families—and then wondering why our prisons were expanding, our schools failing, our crime and drug rates high.

Our government has been pushing and forcing away parents from their children.

One by one, those "two-parent families need not apply" signs are coming down. They are coming down because policymakers have gotten the word that children's lives are made more productive when two parents are around.

Children generally do better academically, and avoid lives of crime and drugs when both dad and mom are available to help them.

Perhaps some of those signs came down when researchers, like Sara McLanahan of Princeton University, who had bought into the single-parent fad of the '70s and '80s, found that the research did not support her earlier beliefs. She was honest enough to admit that she was wrong in assuming one parent could do the job of two.

She was preceded by many researchers and writers like Sanford Braver and John Guidubaldi, who knew the facts, but who had to have sufficient data to reach conclusions that would convince the policymakers like Nancy Johnson and Clay Shaw.

Perhaps some of those signs came down as more women joined the ranks of non-custodial parents. There are now 2 million non-custodial mothers, and millions of second wives, and grandmothers. Some of those women have been on the phone, writing letters, and e-mailing their Congressmembers, with the frequency of a dunning bill collector.

Well, the convincing is being done. And despite the opposition of NOW, the "Fathers Count" bill has passed the House, and now goes to the Senate.

I often get mail, as do many of you, from groups concerned about the environment, peace, and other world safety issues. I try to contribute to some of those groups, because I know, as do you, that if we do not have a relatively safe and secure planet, none of the family issues we all work on matter. You cannot raise a family if the Polar Ice Cap melts, if the Gulf Stream disappears, of if virulent bacteria destroys all life.

But my heart and soul are in children's and family issues; and it makes me feel grateful that after years in the trenches, we are making progress.

Much remains to be done, but that the tide has been shifting the past several years with the help of women and men of goodwill—is grounds for encouragement.

CRC Info

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Website: www.gocrc.com
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"Negativity is the Destroyer of the Good Life"

Dr. A. Jayne Major, author

We thank Bladen Lithograpics Inc. in Gaithersburg, MD for providing printing services to CRC.

Oklahama Access

Continued from page 1

dren after the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage."

"To effectuate this policy, if requested by a parent, the court shall provide substantially equal access to the minor children to both parents at a temporary order hearing, unless the court finds that such shared parenting would be detrimental to such child."

"The burden of proof that such shared parenting would be detrimental to such child shall be upon the parent requesting sole custody."

"This is a strong presumption for joint custody, but only for temporary custody orders. However, it is a revolutionary change, because of the importance of temporary orders," said Palumbo. "Temporary orders have a way of becoming permanent orders," he pointed out.

Palumbo said that "because the law applies to separated **or** divorced parents, unwed parents should also be eligible to receive an equal time share with the child."

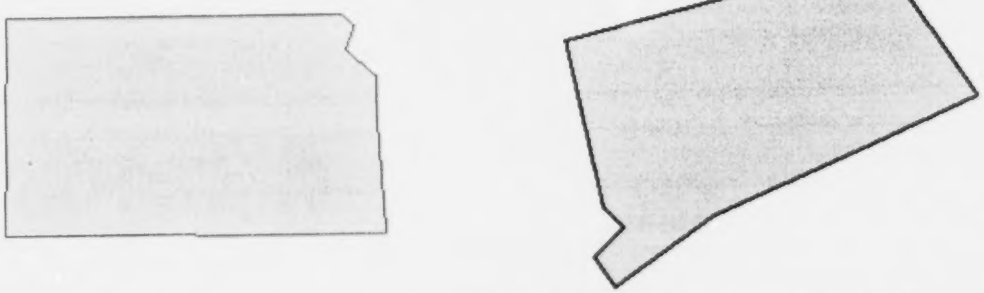
Fathers Must Register or Lose Rights to Adoption

Also, Palumbo reports that in response to the federal speedy Adoption Act, Oklahoma law requires men to register every time they have sex with a woman so as to preserve their potential status as a parent and claim to their children.

He says: Failure to register with the Oklahoma sex registry for men could be used to deny a father from custody or access to his child even though he was unaware he had a child until birth or after birth, because the mother failed to inform him. Does your state now have a sex registry for men? I know here in Oklahoma there has been no publicity to inform men that failure to register after sex is supposed to terminate your parental rights if the mother chooses adoption. The father has to determine if the mother is pregnant with your child, you have to have a lawyer on retainer for the purpose of notifying your objection to adoption, and if you change addresses, you must notify the state of any address change.

Palumbo says Oklahoma is acting on the basis of the National Commission for Uniform Parentage Act.

Divorce Rate Expected to Drop as Joint Custody Increases



Kansas and Connecticut have highest amount of physical joint custody and highest decline in the divorce rate.

Based on current trends, the divorce rate in the U.S. will be reduced by 5 percent to 10 percent within the next 20 years, CRC predicted at a press conference at the CRC conference November 24.

The divorce rate, which has dipped slightly in the past few years from its high of 50 percent of all marriages, will drop further because of the rapid rise of joint custody (shared parenting), and the greater involvement of fathers in children's lives.

CRC said data from the Census Bureau and the National Center for Health Statistics shows that the states with the greatest amount of physical joint custody in 1989 and 1990 had the greatest decline in the divorce rate in the subsequent years 1991 through 1995. Data are only available for 19 states.

"The states with the over-all highest amount of physical joint custody and highest decline in the divorce rate are Kansas and Connecticut, but Idaho, Illinois, Montana, Alaska, Rhode Island, and Wyoming, also scored well in at least one of the two categories," said Rick Kuhn, a CRC evaluator of research, who participated in the press conference.

"More children growing up with 2 parents means a greater likelihood that children will do better academically, and be less likely to get involved with crime, delinquency, and drugs," said John Guidubaldi, Ed.D., a former president of the National Association of School Psychologists, who participated in the press conference.

"If a parent knows that he or she will have to interact with the child's other parent while the child is growing up, there is less incentive to divorce," said David L. Levy, CRC President.

Around the Country

Idaho and Iowa Apply License Revocation to Access Denial, Too

Idaho and Iowa have become the first states to enact balanced law on license revocation, by requiring that revocation or suspension of drivers' or professional licenses of parents delinquent in child support also apply to parents who violate visitation orders.

Idaho

Teresa Kasier, head of the Idaho child support office at the time the legislation was being considered, urged through a Welfare Reform Advisory Committee appointed by the Governor that the legislation should apply in a balanced law. Legislators agreed and thus made the Idaho license suspension law the first in the nation to apply to emotional as well as financial support.

See Idaho Code, Chapter 14, Title 7, Family Law License Suspension, effective January 1, 1997.

Kaiser is now head of the Maryland child support office in Baltimore.

Iowa

Iowa law provides for similar license suspension under a court's contempt power. The law states that as an alternative to jail, "If a person against whom a temporary order or final decree has been entered willfully disobeys the order or decree...(the violator)...may be enjoined for engaging in the exercise of any activity governed by a license." 'License' means any license or renewal of a license, certification, or registration issued by an agency to a person to conduct a trade or business, including but not limited to a license to practice a profession or occupation or to operate a commercial motor vehicle."

Dick Woods, longtime custody reform activist in Iowa, assisted state legislators in obtaining approval for this change in the law.

See Iowa Code on Dissolution of Marriage and Domestic Relations, Sections 598.23 and 598.23A.

Ask your state legislators to pass a law similar to law in Idaho and Iowa that says that licenses may be suspended for violations of custody and access orders.

Access Grants

Terry Cady, CRC coordinator for Illinois, who administers a $200,000 access grant in DuPage County, Illinois, testified on behalf of CRC and other groups before a House Subcommittee on September 23 regarding the access (visitation) grants.

Cady praised the over-all concept of the grants, but pointed out some problems:

1) Some of the grants were being directed to groups, such as domestic violence shelters, which already receive $1.6 billion in federal funds.
2) The $10 million annual amount provided by the federal government for access (visitation) grants to the states should be increased to $50 million each year.
3) Non-profit groups with experience in counseling non-custodial parents should receive a majority of the funding.

Empowerment Network Re-Launched

The Empowerment Network, a policy hub for state legislators, grassroots leaders and policymakers promoting renewal of American families and communities, has been re-launched.

David Caprara, a former deputy to Jack Kemp when he was secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and a deputy to former Virginia Governor George Allen, is president of TEN.

You can learn of TEN activities by visiting its website, at www.empowermentnetwork.com

TEN's Honorary Co-Chairs are retired Sen. Dan Coats (R-IN), Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating, and Robert Woodson, Sr., National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. Board Officers besides Caprara include Sam Brunelli, President of Team Builders International and Robin Read, Vice President, National Foundation for Women Legislators.

Empowerment Leadership Roundtable members include Jack Kemp, Charles Ballard, Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Revitalization, Don Eberly, Civil Society Project, and CRC's David Levy.

Cry for Children

Almost 200 people from around the country heard a dozen speakers at a 'Cry for Children' rally at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool on November 7.

The rally was designed to "expose the truth of divorce and divorce litigation tactics as they apply to children," said Cry for Children national chairman Brad Ingram, of Richmond, VA.

Speakers include Dennis Austin, pastor of Mission Service for Christ's Earthen Vessels, Steve Baskerville of Howard University, Murray Steinberg of Children's Rights Coalition of Virginia, Dean Tong, author of "Ashes to Ashes," Jeff Golden of Fathers' and Children's Equality, Philadelphia.

C-Span refused to video the event, said Ingram, because they found no issue of "prominent national significance" being discussed at the Rally.

1999 CRC Conference a Success

Nearly 200 people attended CRC's 12th national conference September 23-26, 1999, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Alexandria, Virginia.

Participants included CRC chapter coordinators and members, parents, grandparents, and step-parents, authors and syndicated newspaper columnists, and researchers in the field of family issues from several major universities.

Attendees also included mediators, parent educators, family law reform advocates and government officials from the federal level and from eight states as well as two Congressional subcommittee chairmen.

"The purpose of the national conference has always been to provide for the coming together of our membership and of prospective members for the purpose of sharing ideas and information which will ultimately advance the tenets of our mission statement," said CRC Board Chairman John L. Bauserman, Jr. "It is through our national conference that we serve and inform our members in addition to bringing researchers and writers together and emphasizing CRC's educational goals."

"All three aims were admirably met," said CRC President David L. Levy. "Murray and Barbara Steinberg did a terrific job as coordinators of this conference."

"The conference featured presentations structured around a variety of relevant topics and implemented in an accepting, interactive environment," said Barbara Steinberg. "Small round table discussions were also available to participants which gave everyone an opportunity for personal exchanges of ideas and support."

Presenters were:

- **Wednesday, Sept. 22, Pre-Conference**
  –Access Counselor Certification Program, presented by Dick Woods.
- **Thursday, Sept. 23**
  –Round table discussions, led by T.B.A. Daily.
  –Hon. David Gray Ross, commissioner of child support, "How the Child Support Office is Becoming Family Friendly."
  –Barbara Steinberg, "Parental Abduction—The Extreme of Parental Alienation."
  –Catherine Meyer, "International Parental Kidnapping."
  –Charles Janus, "Exploring Radical Political Options."
  –Neil Tift, National Fatherhood Initiative, "Enhancing Co-Parenting Partnerships in the Family."
  –David Arnaudo, federal child support office, "How to Obtain Access (Visitation) Grants". Panel participants included D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Eugene N. Hamilton, CRC Child Access Director Al Ellis; New York State Child Support Director Robert Doar and Kim Boedecker-Frey, CRC of New York; Joseph Mason, Illinois Department of Public Aid; Stacy L. Rogers, Maryland Director of the Office of Community Initiatives, Nebraska Assistant Child Support Director Roxie Webb and Lyn and Bill Huerter, CRC of Nebraska.
  –Peter Breggin, M.D. "The Overuse of Ritalin and Other Drugs on Children."
  –Cathy Young, "Cease-Fire!: Why Women and Men Must Join Forces to Achieve True Equality.

Journalists Young (left) and Parker (right) Spoke About the Importance of a Child's Right to Two Parents

  –Ron Clark, Virginia Fatherhood Initiative, "Fatherhood Works."
- **Friday, Sept. 24**
  –Ronald Haskins, Staff Director, House Subcommittee on Human Resources, "Valuing the Family on Capitol Hill"
  –Uriel Johnson, National Center for Strategic Non-Profit Planning and Community Leadership (NPCL), "Jobs, Not Jail for Unwed Parents"
  –Cathy Young, writer, and Kathleen Parker, syndicated columnist, "Media Luncheon"
  –Sanford Braver, Ph.D., John Guidubaldi, Ed.D., Joyce Arditti, Ph.D., Mark A. Rogers, Psy.D., and Rick Kuhn, "Hot New Research on Families."
  –Serge Prengel, author, "A Divorced Father's Journey"
  –Edward Holstein, Kathleen Parker, and Stephen Baskerville, "Goals for the Fatherhood Movement"
  –Ann Warshauer, "Parenting Education During and After Divorce"
  –Phil Stahl, Ph.D., "The Impact of Child Development in High Conflict and Alienation"
  –Jean McBride, M.S., "Step-Mothers"
  –Dean Tong, Robert Schreiber, M.D., Murray Steinberg, and Barbara Steinberg, Ph.D., "Risky Business: Dealing with Allegations and Borderline Personalities"
- **Saturday, Sept. 25**
  –Sanford Braver, Ph.D., "Impact of Divorce on Parents"
  –Philip Stahl, Ph.D., "Using Custody Evaluations in the Conflict Resolution Process"
  –Jeffery Leving, J.D. and Mark Rogers, Psy.D., "Dads, Kids, and Emotional Development"
  –Herman Frankel, M.D., "Helping You and Your Children Deal with Loss During and After Divorce"
  –Greg Schaaf, "Problems and

Continued on page 8

1999 Conference

Continued from page 7

Opportunities with Mediation"
–Kay Pasley, Ed.D., "Step-Families Today: 1,477 Research Studies Later"
–Margorie Engel, Ph.D., "Financial Issues and Complexities in Step-Families"
–Douglas Darnall, Ph.D., "Explaining Parental Alienation for the Courts"

- **Sunday, Sept. 26**
–Richard Gardner, M.D., "Parental Alienation Syndrome Revisited and Revised"
–Ronald Henry, J.D., "The Outlook for Kids and Families"
–Ellen Levy, Closing Circle of Hope

Speakers from Congress

Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT), chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee of House Ways and Means, where welfare reform, financial child support, access (visitation) and Fatherhood legislation emanates. Mrs. Johnson said that after her election to Congress, her husband became the major caregiver for the Johnson children, and this was a good thing, because then the Johnson children got to know their dad better.

Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL), a former chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee, who introduced the first "Fathers Count" bill two years ago, who now heads the Social Security Subcommittee. Shaw spoke of the need to preserve social security for the next generation, and also spoke about the importance of two parents for children whenever possible.

Rep. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), an advisor to CRC, who, when she was a member of the Michigan legislature, spearheaded the broadening of the Michigan "Friend of the Court" system to include informal resolution of access (visitation) complaints.

Rep. Bob Barrett (R-NE) also attended the conference, with his wife Elsie.

Children First Awards

CRC presented "Children First" certificates to the four members of Congress mentioned above—Johnson, Shaw, Stabenow and Barrett, for their contributions to kids and CRC. We also presented "Children First" awards in presentations at their Congressional offices to: Rep. Albert Wynn (D-MD), an informal CRC Advisor, and Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ), for his sponsorship of a bill passed by Congress in 1998 that requires states to enforce access (visitation) orders of other states.

CRC wishes to thank volunteers who helped at the conference: Murray and Barbara Steinberg, Ingrid Bough-Bell, Lawrence Peckmazian, Paul Robinson, D'Arcy McGreer, Cliff Clark, John Siegmund, John Michael (photographer), Harvey Walden, Diana and Ellen Levy. Patricia Clark and Mattie Nance ran the bookstore, and Bill and Jackie Green did audiotaping.

Leving

CNN and other national news organizations reported on the conference. Some of those media contacts were arranged by Illinois attorney Jeffery Leving, who was publicizing his book, "Fathers' Rights" in several media outlets at the time of the conference.

President Clinton sent greetings to the conference. (See text next issue of "Speak Out for Children.")

THIS RIVETING EXPOSÉ REVEALS HOW JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, PSYCHIATRISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS VIOLATE LAW & ETHICS IN THEIR MISGUIDED ZEAL TO IDENTIFY A "PRIMARY PARENT"

One Divorced Father's Story

Every Father's and Child's Nightmare

A FAMILY DIVIDED
A Divorced Father's Struggle with the Child Custody Industry

by Robert Mendelson

Robert Mendelson's new book, A Family Divided, compellingly chronicles Dr. Michael Heiland's journey through the sad mess we call "family court," and along the way provides important advice to fathers facing the prospect of divorce as well as thoughtful recommendations to policy makers for change. Don't go to divorce court without having read this book!"
Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., President of the National Fatherhood Initiative

A Family Divided is on target about the social ill that faces society today. I intend to send a copy to several colleagues.
Sammy S. Ilan, Chairman/Founder of the National Organization for Men

How to Purchase A FAMILY DIVIDED

66 BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Conference Snapshots

Photos from clockwise: House Subcommittee Chairmen Johnson and Shaw; The non-custodial parents' quilt: The invisible parents want their love for their children to be seen (www.betterdivorce.com/quilt); Volunteer of the Year C.J. Honan and Margaret Wowert, CRC Ohio Coordinator; Roundtable discussion; Dinnertime; Learning session; Group shot; and Book fair (center).
Photos by John Michael (imagination@writeme.com)

States Encouraged to Forgive Arrearages for Low Income Families

Low Income Parents Can Pay $1 in Arrearages and that is O.k. with the States and the Feds

Ross

The federal child support office is encouraging states to forgive child support arrearages when parents reconcile or re-marry. In a "Public Policy Supporting Two-Parent Families/Compromise of Arrearages," Federal Child Support Commissioner David Gray Ross sent a message to state IV-D (child support) directors urging them to follow the lead of Vermont and Washington State in suspend child support arrearages for low-income families.

"Currently in most states, even if the parents marry or remarry, families with TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) arrearages are required to make payments to the state as a result of the TANF requirement of assigning child support payments," said Ross. "This can worsen the economic situation for low-income families, thereby reducing their ability to maintain a self-sufficient two-parent household."

Ross said a state could accept less than the full payment of arrearages assigned to the state on the same grounds that exist for compromise and settlement of any other judgment in the state.

See memo dated March 22, 1999 from Federal Child Support Office, PIQ-99003, or on website: www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs.cse/pol/piq-9003.htm

Current Plus $1 Arrearages

As stated in "Speak Out for Children," (Summer/Fall 1998), new federal law computes federal incentive payments to the states by focusing on cases with collections, not the previous requirement that the state collect the highest amount possible, even if it meant impoverishment for the payor.

Now, if a state can collect current support owed plus $1, this case satisfies federal requirements for the states to receive their incentive payments from the feds in the arrearage collection category.

Kaiser

Teresa Kaiser, when she was Missouri child support director, and other child support directors, recommended this method of computing the arrearages collection incentive measure because it allows state flexibility in setting arrearage payments, yet still states can be considered efficient.

The Federal Child Support Office, under Judge David Gray Ross, sent to Congress the performance measures which included the measure of arrears cases with collections and this was passed by Congress.

"A compassionate approach to arrearages is also reflected in Judge Ross's recent memo," said Kaiser, who is now child support director for Maryland.

Gore Wants Credit Card Crackdown

On a harsher note, Vice President Gore, in a speech October 20, 1999, said he would pressure credit card companies to reject applicants who are delinquent on child support payments. Aides said he would offer the nation's three major credit card bureaus reports from the federal database on parents (primarily fathers) who have fallen behind in child support.

Acknowledging that the government could not force the companies, a Gore advisor said, "We think they'd be shamed into it." (See Washington Post 10/20/99, page A16).

CRC and our chapters need grant and proposal writers.

Correction

In our Summer/Fall "Speak Out for Children" we recommended that your state adopt the new West Virginia joint custody statute. We erred. Do not adopt this statute.

The new joint custody law in West Virginia is a substantial improvement for that state, primarily because it modifies the "primary caretaker" policy that was followed in that state for many years. Under the outmoded primary caretaker theory, the parent who primarily cared for the child before the divorce is to receive sole custody after the divorce.

There are also other improvements over prior law in the new West Virginia statute, but there is a defect, in that the statute gives credit to "caretaking functions" but not to "parenting functions" in deciding whether there shall be joint custody. "Caretaking" functions that receive credits include such things as grooming and dressing the child and toilet training, while "parenting" functions such as providing economic support, furniture repair, and doing yard work, are specifically listed as not to be counted.

This crediting of "caretaking" functions but disregarding "parenting" functions is part of the "model" bill recommended by the American Law Institute that West Virginia adopted.

Again, West Virginia's law is a giant step forward for that state, but until the legislature adds a one word change—to count parenting and caretaking functions, the statute's full recognition of a child's right to two parents is in doubt.

Change of Address

To keep newsletters and other materials coming, please notify CRC three weeks in advance of any address change. Send old and new addresses to CRC, 300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20002.

Also, CRC now has its own domain. Our new website address is: www.gocrc.com

Some Major CRC Accomplishments

CRC was founded in 1985. As CRC enters its 15th year (2000), it is time to reflect on CRC's Accomplishments—none of which would be possible without our members and supporters, and a little help from the Almighty.

1985. Under our original name, National Council for Children's Rights, formed a nationally prominent Advisory Panel, including "Dear Abby," U.S. Senators and Representatives, representatives of Mothers Without Custody, Stepfamily and Grandparents groups, researchers and writers on family issues.

1985. Sought Congressional authorization for the establishment of access (visitation) staff throughout the country to informally help in obtaining children's access to their non-custodial parents.

1986. First of 12 national CRC conferences, which brought together researchers and writers, CRC members, and policymakers from the U.S. and abroad.

1986. CRC testified for the first of 20 times before Congressional committees. Also submitted the first of 40 written statements for the record in other Congressional hearings in favor of access (visitation) policies and programs, joint custody (shared parenting), welfare reform that would encourage 2-parent families, mediation, and implementation of the Hague Convention Against International Parental Kidnapping.

1987. CRC held a rally in front of the Capital, the first of various rallies, Candlelight Vigils, award breakfasts, and awards for "Best in Media," "Healer Awards" and "Parenting Awards" given over the years.

1988. Filed the first of 20 amicus curaie (friend of the court briefs) in support of a child's right to two parents. The first brief, filed before the U.S. Supreme Court, asked the court to uphold—which it did, by a narrow 5-4 majority, the right of an unwed biological father of a child to a hearing to determine if he should have visitation rights.

1988 After 3 years of advocacy by CRC on Capitol Hill, Congress provided in the Family Support Act of 1988 for access (visitation) demonstration grants in 6 states—Indiana, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Arizona. Mediation, counseling, and telephone monitoring were tried.

1989. Published the first of more than 75 evaluations of research reports over the years. The first report showed that fathers were paying up to 35% more in child support than federal figures had previously reported.

1990. Welcomed the first of 38 chapters in 32 states, Washington, D.C., and Japan.

1991. Published first annual edition of Parenting Directory, listing more than 1,000 groups across the country that can help parents.

1993. Changed our name to "Children's Rights Council" to put children first.

1993. Published CRC book "The Best Parent is Both Parents" (Hampton Roads Publishing Co).

1994. Results of 1988 access demonstration grants were so positive that Congress, in the 1994 Welfare Reform Act, provided $10 million a year in access grants for all 50 states and territories to share in.

1994. The federal government published the CRC Model Child Support Guideline authored by CRC member Don Bieniewicz in its publication called: "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation."

1995. Published first annual "Top 10 States to Raise a Child" report, which has received increasing national mediation attention over the years.

1995. Helped with Congressional establishment of National Commission on Child and Family Welfare, which after deliberations, recommended more mediation, unified family courts, parenting plans.

1996. Helped obtain passage of presumption for joint legal and physical custody in the Nation's Capital. Chapters made strides in changing laws and attitudes in their respective states.

1997. CRC and its chapters started receiving access grants, which total $355,000 in four states (Illinois, Nebraska, New York, Maryland) and Washington, D.C., providing mediation, parenting education, parenting plans, neutral drop-off and pick-up of children, supervised access, hotlines. Some parents are seeing their children for the first time in these programs.

1998. Disseminated report based on data from the Census Bureau and National Center for Health Statistics that the states with the highest amount of physical joint custody in 1989 and 1990 had subsequently the greatest decline in the divorce rate. The reason seems to be that when parents know they will have to interact with the other parent, there is less incentive to divorce.

1999. Led successful effort second year in a row to defeat an anti-joint custody (shared parenting) resolution in the House.

1999. Assisted in advocating for passage of the "Fathers Count" bill in the House.

Equal Parents' Week

by Patti Diroff
CRC's National Equal Parents Week Coordinator

Equal Parents' Week will be held September 25 to October 1, 2000. This is a change from past years, when Equal Parents' Week was held in July, in conjunction with National Parents' Day, to emphasize the mutual objectives of both events.

"After much thought, we are returning Equal Parents' Week to its original date in September, to avoid summer-related problems which pose impediments on participants, particularly vacation and hot weather," said Patti Diroff, CRC's national Equal Parents' Week coordinator.

"Equal Parents' Week will advocate that national priorities be established to reform custody and financial child support laws," said Diroff. "Custody laws should be structured to maximize the involvement that both parents are willing and able to contribute to raising their children. This means a 2-parent focus in arranging flexible work schedules and other demands that affect parents and allocating the maximum amount of time each parent is able and willing to spend with their children."

"The structure of financial child support needs to be reformed to promote the ability of both parents to meet all their children's needs without compromising, or imposing financial impediments to non-financial forms of child support."

"I am also considering developing a children's theme for some of the candlelight vigils as an option, such as the candlelight vigil held by a daycare center in Livermore, CA in 1999," said Diroff.

Comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome; you may reach Patti at 909/594-3689 and **pattidiroff@worldnet.att.net**

Learn About the
Access Counselor Accreditation Program™
A Division of The Children's Rights Council

Receive Training by the Children's Rights Council, and Become a Certified Access Counselor.

Trainer: Dick Woods of Des Moines, Iowa, who has given this course on behalf of the Children's Rights Council annually since 1993. Completion of the one day workshop qualifies you to take the test for certification. Upon passage of the test, and completion of a questionnaire on course content, you will receive a "Certified Access Counselor" certificate suitable for framing in your Office.

THIS UNIQUE TRAINING IS PROVIDED ONLY BY THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COUNCIL.

Training sessions have been offered at Children's Rights Council national conferences.

We are offering this course between conferences as a service to CRC members and supporters.

Location of course and date will depend on how many people contact Dick Woods.

For information and registration, contact Dick Woods at 2125 Prairie View East, Ames, Iowa 50010, phone 515/233-2750. Allow two to three weeks for reply.

You may also contact CRC for further information.

Introducing E-mail Contact for CRC Members

Send and receive e-mail to and from other CRC members around the country.

If you are a CRC member, e-mail the following message to Harry Prillaman, CRC Coordinator for Georgia.

"I am a national CRC member who would like to join the crc-general@egroups.com distribution list."

Call the CRC national office at 202-547-6227, or fax 202-546-4272 to make sure your national membership is current.

Intellectual Property Protection

Charlie Ruggiero, who obtained trademark protection for the name and logo "Children's Rights Council" and the name and logo for our newsletter "Speak Out for Children" is a specialist in trademark, patent, copyright, and licensing law. He is a partner in the law firm of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero and Perle, 1 Landmark Square, Suite 903, Stamford, CT 06901, telephone (203) 3274067.

Beat the Tax Man: Contribute to CRC

Keep working for children. If you wish to consider leaving a bequest or property to CRC, please state the following in your will: "I hereby leave the following to the Children's Rights Council: — (state your bequest)."

Credit Card Information

Thanks to everyone who uses the CRC Visa Credit Card. CRC receives $5 for every new person who signs up to use the card. We also receive 15 cents every time you use the card, regardless of the size of the purchase. So it is better to break down your purchases into several small amounts, so CRC can receive more of those 15 cent credits.

Inside CRC

Meyer

CRC is pleased to announce that Catherine Meyer, author of "They Are My Children, Too" is the new honorary president of the Children's Rights Council. She was offered the post by the CRC Board of Directors.

Meyer gave a talk on International Parental Kidnapping at CRC's 12th National Conference on September 23, and also made remarks along with other book authors at the conference's Book and Author Luncheon on September 25.

Lady Meyer (pronounced May-or) is the wife of the British Ambassador to the United States, Sir Christopher Meyer.

Lady Meyer has not seen her two sons, Alexander and Constantin, in five years. They are being held in Germany by the father.

"There are many situations where a child is deprived of access to a parent by the other parent. Whether it happens in the U.S. or abroad, it is a horrendous problem which CRC works constantly to resolve," said CRC Board Chairman John Bauserman, Jr. "We are glad that Lady Meyer is helping to highlight this problem and educate policymakers and the public about it."

"I very much look forward to working with CRC and bringing more attention to children's rights issues," said Lady Meyer.

Comedian David Brenner, who had to wage a several year fight to have access to his son Cole, was CRC's previous Honorary President. "We thank David very much for his long service in that post," said CRC President David L. Levy.

Lady Meyer testified on international parental kidnapping at two recent Congressional hearings. She urged that countries be obliged to follow the Hague Convention on International Parental Kidnapping, and that a loophole in the convention, under which a child may be asked which country he wants to live in, be tightened. She testified that in Germany, children as young as 3 are asked this question, and they can easily be coached by a parent to give a particular answer.

The Hague Convention says that children are to be returned to the country of "habitual residence," which is designed to stop forum shopping in different countries.

CRC presented testimony for the record at both hearings, the gist of which was that access (visitation) should be treated the same way as custody by the Hague Convention, so that children would be returned to the country of "habitual residence" for custodial or access rights to be enforced. Some courts such as those in Great Britain recognize access rights more than courts in other countries. CRC mentioned that Sweden, Germany, and the Arab states are among the countries that frequently refuse to honor custody or access decrees of other countries.

In another development, the Justice Department says it is looking into the number of individuals making child support payments who abduct children because visitation was refused. For further information, contact Ronald Lacy, director, Missing and Exploited Children's Program, 202/616-3637.

Now It's the Family Advisory Board

CRC used to have an "Advisory Panel" of prominent Americans. We have a changed the name to "Family Advisory Board," to give it more prominence, and Clifton Alan Clark, Sr. is the chairman of that Board. Clark is a former CRC director of development. CRC encourages active involvement by advisors whenever possible to help children, families, and CRC.

Mediation, Moveaway Help

Leslee Newman, J.D., who has been giving free consultations on move-away issues to CRC members, is available for mediation consultations (at a fee). Leslee, who is a trained mediator, can be reached at 714-282-1515. Her husband Don Smith, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, is available for child custody evaluations. Don's number is 714-939-6678.

A Way to Adjust the Financial Child Support Guideline

The thing that most surprised West Virginia legislators when Don Bieniewicz testified before them in November was learning that standard financial child support guidelines used in their state provided no adjustment for standard visitation with the child by the non-custodial parent.

"They were shocked. They thought there was an adjustment," said Bieniewicz, when he was invited to speak before the legislators.

Most states follow guidelines recommended by Robert Williams of Policy Studies, Inc. in Colorado, and distributed several years ago by the federal government. Williams has conceded that there is no provision for child support adjustment for time spent between the child and the non-custodial parents in the standard arrangement which includes standard visitation.

Ask your state agency working on child support guidelines to invite Bieniewicz, CRC's expert on guidelines, to testify.

Bieniewicz's testimony could help convince your state to adopt portions of the only guideline we know of that is based on a child having two parents.

This CRC guideline, authored by Bieniewicz, was published by the federal government in a publication entitled "Child Support Guidelines: The Next Generation."

To obtain a copy of the federal publication, phone (202) 401-9383, the Office of Child Support Enforcement's Reference Center, located at 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW, Washington, D.C. 20447.

Copies of the guideline itself as published by the government are available from CRC for $5.00 for CRC members, and $10.00 for non-members, including shipping and handling.

Write to Bieniewicz at 10004 Fairoaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181, contact him via email at DonBien@erols.com, or phone 703-255-0837 (evenings).

Children's Rights Council

2000 CATALOG OF RESOURCES

for parents and professionals

MANY BOOKS DISCOUNTED!

Couldn't Make it to the CRC Conference?

Buy a Book by an Author Who Spoke!

Learn More About the Conference.

Books by authors who spoke at the Conference are triple starred (***)

BOOKS FOR KIDS

NEW!

*****A Heart Full of Love**, written by Bette S. Margolis, illustrated by Christie L. Kline. A wonderful book for that special 7- to 9-year-old in your life who is undergoing parental divorce.
SB-101 ---------- **$15.00**

I Love You More Than..., by Elizabeth Hickey and James Cohen. Illustrated by Lynda Smart Brown, 1998.
HB-102 ---------- **$16.95**

Daddy Day, Daughter Day, by CNN's Larry King and Chaia King, 1997. A true story of divorce told through both a child's and a father's perspective.
SB-103 ---------- **$12.95**

How to Survive Your Parent's Divorce: Kids Advice to Kids, by Gayle Kimball, 1994. Easy-to-read one-of-a-kind guide for young people and their parents as they reshape their lives post-divorce.
SB-104 ---------- ***Discount Price $4.00**

I Think Divorce Stinks, by Marcia Lebowitz, 1992. Helps children recognize that it is appropriate to have negative feelings about divorce and to express those feelings.
SB-105 ---------- **$4.95**

What am I Doing in a Stepfamily?, by Claire Berman, 1994. A children's book explaining how two families can be better than one.
SB-106 ---------- **$12.00**

*****It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear**, by Vicki Lansky, 1998. Koko Bear can help children understand divorce and sends a good message.
SB-107 ---------- **$5.99**

The Divorce Workbook, by Sally Ives, David Fassler & Michelle Lasch, 1985 How to facilitate honest and open communication between adults and children at the traumatic time of separation and divorce. Q and A for kids.
SB-108 ---------- ***Discount Price $6.00**

My Book, My Self for Boys, by Linda Madaras and Area Madaras, 1995. The "What's Happening to My Body for Boys."
SB-109 ---------- **$11.95**

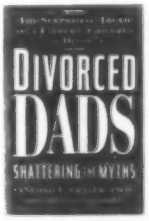
BOOKS FOR PARENTS

50/50 Parenting, by Gayle Kimball, Ph.D. Almost 300 co-parents and 83 children report on life in Married, Divorced, and Step-family situations.
SB-201 ---------- **$9.95**

The Adult Children of Divorce Workbook, by Mary Hirschfeld, 1992. Visualization exercises help readers root our destructive feelings left over from their childhood.
SB-202 ---------- ***Discount Price $5.00**

*****Divorce Book for Parents**, by Vicki Lansky, 1987. Warmly supportive and reassuring, this comprehensive guide speaks to all divorced and divorcing parents.
HB-203 ---------- ***Discount Price $9.00**

*****The Divorce Decisions Workbook**, by Margorie Engel, 1992. Planning and action guide with 55 formulas to help you in four key decision areas:financial, legal, practical, and emotional.
SB-204 ---------- ***Discount Price $7.00**



*****Divorced Dads, Shattering the Myths**, by Sanford L. Braver, Ph.D., 1998. The surprising truth about fathers, children and divorce.
HB-205 ---------- **$24.95**

*****For the Sake of the Children**, by Kris Kline and Stephen Pew, 1992. Discusses how to share your children with your ex-spouse despite your anger. Kline is CRC's Florida coordinator. PHOTOCOPIES ONLY!
HB-206 ---------- ***Discount Price $9.00**

Divorce: Crisis, Challenge, or Relief?, by David A. Chiriboga and Linda S. Catron, 1991. Addresses the impact of divorce on children through different stages of their lives.
SB-207 ---------- **$22.50**

Why Parents Disagree: How Women and Men Parent Differently and How We Can Work Together, by Dr. Ron Taffel, 1994. An explanation of why parents begin to lead different lives and how parents can raise kids as partners, not enemies.
SB-208 ---------- **$23.00**

The Good Divorce, by Constance R. Ahrons, Ph.D., 1994. An outstanding book with a powerful message: while divorce is not 'good,' there is a path to a 'good divorce' where parents cooperate fully for the sake of their children.
HB-209 ---------- **$23.00**

A Hole in My Heart, by Claire Berman, 1991. A book that will enable adult children of divorce to recognize the role they play in changing patterns in their lives.
SB-210 ---------- ***Discount Price $8.00**

Families Apart, by Melinda Blau, 1993. 10 Keys to Successful Co-Parenting. A blend of the author's own research, and that of other experts, and rich in anecdotal information.
SB-211 ---------- ***Discount Price $10.00**

REVISED!
Mom's House, Dad's House, by Isolina Ricci, Ph.D., 1998. Making shared custody work: How parents can make two homes for their children after divorce. 100 **New** pages to this classic book!
SB-212 ---------- **$20.00**

Negotiating Love: How Women and Men Can Resolve Their Differences, by Riki Robbins Jones, 1995. Points our destructive habits by both genders which, when realized, strengthen families and relationships.
SB-213 ---------- ***Extra Low Price* $11.00**

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Surviving Divorce, by Paula Weintraub and Terry Hillman, 1996.
SB-214 ---------- **$16.95**

Putting Kids First, by Michael Oddenino. A must read for caring parents and professionals, by CRC's General Counsel. Includes a children's bill of rights.
SB-215 ---------- **$9.95**

Second Chances, by Judith Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, 1989. Based on ten year longitudinal study of the effects of divorce on adults and children.
HB-216 ---------- ***Discount Price $8.00**

Surviving the Break-Up, How Children and Parents Cope with Divorce, by Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D. and Joan Kelly, Ph.D., 1980. A classic that is still valid in discussing the problems of children being raised by single parents.
SB-217 ---------- ***Discount Price $10.00**

REVISED!
Creating a Successful Parenting Plan, by Dr. A. Jayne Major. Nationally acclaimed author of "Breakthrough Parenting" and "Winning the Custody War Without Casualties"
SB-218 ---------- **$24.95**

3 Steps to a Strong Family, by Linda and Richard Eyre, 1994. A 3-step program that can make your family life happier, less stressful, and more rewarding.
HB-219 ---------- **$19.50**

Familyhood: Nurturing the Values that Matter, by Dr. Lee Salk, 1992. A practical, inspiring guide to communicating values.
HB-220 ---------- **$21.00**

The Best Parent is Both Parents: A Guide to Shared Parenting in the 21st Century, the CRC book edited by David L. Levy. Order bulk copies (10 or more) for only $4 a copy, resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies will continue to be available from CRC for $10 each, plus $4 for postage, as long as supplies last. If you would like copies (individual or bulk order) autographed by David L. Levy, just state to whom you would like it autographed (yourself, perhaps your children—give their names).
SB-221 ---------- **Order 10 copies or more each only $4.00**
---------- **Individual copies $10.00**

Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce, by M. Gary Neuman, L.M.H.C. 1996. This book is based on the nationally renowned "Sandcastles" workshop.
HB-222 ---------- **$25.00**

The Sibling Society, by Robert Bly, 1996, author of "Iron John." Describes our culture as one where adults remain children, and children have no desire to become adults—a nation of squabbling siblings.
HB-223 ---------- **$25.00**

NEW!

***Ceasefire**, by Cathy Young, 1999, syndicated columnist. Why women and men must join forces to achieve true equality; how that will help children, too.
HB-224 ---------- **$25.00**

Saying No Is Not Enough, by Richard Schwebel, Ph.D., 1989. Raising children who make wise decisions about drugs and alcohol.
SB-225 ---------- **$11.00**

Abolition of Marriage, by Maggie Gallagher, 1996, syndicated columnist. How we destroy lasting love.
HB-226 ---------- **$25.00**

Friends for Life, by Susan Jonas and Marilyn Nissenson, 1997. Enriching the bond between mothers and their adult daughters.
HB-227 ---------- **$29.00**

***Talking Back to Ritalin**, by Peter R. Breggin, M.D., 1998, 4-time guest on Oprah. What doctors aren't telling you about the dangers of stimulants.
HB-228 ---------- **$25.00**

BOOKS FOR STEPPARENTS

How to Win as a Stepfamily, by Emily Visher, Ph.D. and John Visher, M.D., 1982. The co-founders of the Stepfamily Association of America answer questions and give suggestions on how to make stepfamilies work.
HB-301 ---------- **$13.95**

Making it as a Stepparent, New Roles/ New Rules, by Claire Berman, 1986. Former president of the Stepfamily Association of America provides practical help and insights.
SB-302 ---------- **$7.95**

Stepfamilies Stepping Ahead, edited by Mala Burt for the Stepfamily Association of America.
SB-303 ---------- **$9.95**

BOOKS FOR GRANDPARENTS

Grandparenting in a Changing World, by Edna LeShan, 1997. "Common sense presented with uncommon grace." —Kirkus Reviews.
SB-401 ---------- **$12.00**

BOOKS FOR SINGLE PARENTS

*****Still a Dad, The Divorced Father's Journey**, by CRC's own Serge Prengel, 1998. Published with praise from Warren Farrell, Karen DeCrow, and James A. Cook.
SB-2501 ---------- **$13.95**

Surviving Divorce—Women's Resources After Separation, by Mavis Maclean, 1991. Women coping with earnings, maintenance and welfare in the U.S., France, and Great Britain.
HB-502 ---------- ***Discount Price $5.00**

Another Way Home: A Single Father's Story, by John Thorndike, 1996. A memoir of Thorndike's life with his wife and the difficult decisions he has had to make regarding their son's life.
HB-503 ---------- **$24.00**

Fatherless America, by David Blankenhorn, 1995. Shows the devastating consequences of fatherlessness in both individual families and in our society.
HB-504 ---------- **$23.00**

The Masculine Mystique: The Politics of Masculinity, by Andrew Kimbrell, 1995. Presents the argument that American men are in crisis and includes what lead to this phenomenon.
HB-505 ---------- **$23.00**

The Daddy Track and the Single Father, by Geoffery L. Greif, 1990. A book about successfully coping with kids, housework, a job, an ex-wife, a social life, and the courts.
HB-506 ---------- **$19.95**

Money-Smart Divorce. What Women Need to Know about Money and Divorce, by Esther M. Berger, 1996.
SB-507 ---------- **$22.00**

The Myth of Male Power, by Warren Farrell, 1993. Rock solid and authentic decimation of the myth of male advantage ...sweeps aside stereotyped assumptions to uncover a deeper truth.
SB-508 ---------- ***Discount Price $6.00**

Why Men Are the Way They Are, by Warren Farrell, 1986. Provides insights into loved one's secret insights and desires.
SB-509 ---------- ***Discount Price $3.00**

*****Fathers' Rights**, by Jeffrey Leving. A best-selling book for fathers who want to maintain contact with their children.
SB-510 ---------- **$12.50**

The Divorced Parent: Success Strategies for Raising Your Children After Separation, by Stephanie Marston, 1994. Provides practical advice and specific tools for raising well-adjusted children.
HB-511 ---------- **$21.00**

Father's Day, by Bill McCoy, 1995. Witty and wise notes from a new dad in the real world.
HB-512 ---------- **$22.00**

Like Father, Like Son, By Hunter S. Fulghum, 1996. A collection of stories on being a man at midlife in America, with introduction by Robert Fulghum.
HB-513 ---------- **$21.95**

Child Custody Made Simple, by Webster Watnik, 1997. Answers all your questions about child custody and child support for a single parent.
SB-514 ---------- **$21.95**

The Single Parent's Money Guide, by Emily Card, 1996. A plan for managing your money when you are the only one your family can count on.
SB-515 ---------- **$14.95**

Questions from Dad, by CRC Spokesperson and pop singer Dwight Twilley, 1994. A very cool way to communicate with your child. Introduced by Dr. Susan Forward.
SB-516 ---------- **$17.00**

I Am the Mother of Sons. Poems by Jayne Jaudon Ferrer, 1996. Illustrated by Lina Levy.
HB-517 ---------- **$10.00**

Men on Divorce—The Other Side of the Story, edited by Penny Kaganoff and Susan Spano, 1997.
SB-518 ---------- **$12.00**

One Swell Dad, by Pat Ross, 1992. The book of memories and expressions of fatherly endearment from the past.
HB-519 ---------- **$9.00**

Another Way Home, by John Thorndike, 1996. A single father's story.
HB-520 ---------- **reduced to $5.00**

MEDIATION & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

***Family Evaluations in Child Custody, Mediation, Arbitration and Litigation**, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1989. In this update, Gardner proposes a three-phase system to remove child custody evaluations from courtroom litigation.
HB-601 ---------- $45.00

Healing Hearts, Helping Children and Adults Recover from Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, M.S.W., CRC's National Parent Education Director, and Elizabeth Dalton, attorney and mediator
HB-602 ---------- $15.00

Parent Vs. Parent: How You and Your Child Can Survive the Custody Battle, by Stephen P. Herman, M.D., 1990. Expert advice for parents through all stages of the divorce process.
HB-603 ---------- $20.95

Between Love and Hate, A Guide to Civilized Divorce, by Lois Gold, M.S.W., 1992. Learn the fundamental skills of negotiation conflict resolution and mediation, for everyone's good.
SB-604 ---------- *Discount Price $9.00

LEGAL ISSUES

NEW!

From Courtship to Courtroom: What Divorce Law Is Doing to Mariage, by Jed H. Abraham, 2000. Abraham, a lawyer, mediator, and joint custody advocate, writes a chilling picture of how today's divorce laws make life miserable for families.
SB-701 ---------- $15.00

NEW!

***Complex Issues in Child Custody Evaluations**, by Philip M. Stahl, 1999. Issues of concern for evaluators.
HB-702 ---------- $30.00

A Family Divided, by Robert Mendelson, 1997. A discussion of a divorced father's struggle with the child custody industry.
HB-703 ---------- $21.00

The Custody Revolution, by Richard Warshak, 1992. The Father Factor and the Motherhood Mystique.
HB-704 ---------- *Discount Price $15.00

Custody for Fathers, by Carleen and Michael Brennan, 1994. Includes more than 100 strategies that have helped fathers win (share) custody of their children in a mom-biased system.
HB-705 ---------- $15.00

Divorce and the Myth of Lawyers, by Lenard Marlow, J.D., 1992. The exposition of myths regarding the legal system and its effects on divorcing couples.
HB-706 ---------- $10.95

***The Father's Emergency Guide to Divorce/Custody Battle**, A Tour Through the Predatory World of Judges, Lawyers, Psychologists and Social Workers in the Subculture of Divorce, by Robert Seidenberg, with the legal insights of Williams Dawes, Esq., 1997.
SB-707 ---------- $15.00

Every Parent's Guide to the Law, by Deborah L. Forman. Everything you need to know about legal issues affecting parents and children pre-birth through the child-rearing years.
SB-708 ---------- $18.00

PARENTAL KIDNAPPING

NEW! Autographed Copies!

***They Are My Children, Too**, by Catherine Meyer, 1999. Powerful account of a mother's loss of her children. A case of international parental kidnapping. Written by CRC's new Honorary President.
HB-801 ---------- $23.00

When Parents Kidnap, by Geoffrey Greif and Rebecca Hegar, 1993. This book captures the experiences of parents searching for their children and abductors who have taken them; also makes public policy recommendations.
HB-902 ---------- $22.95

CHILD ABUSE

***Ashes to Ashes...Families to Dust**, by Dean Tong, 1996. False accusations of child abuse: A road map for survivors that helps to answer their questions.
SB-901 ---------- $15.95

***Protocols for Sex Abuse Evaluations**, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. Presents a new series of criteria and interview sequences to help examiners involved in sex abuse evaluations.
HB-902 ---------- $39.95

***The Parental Alienation Syndrome**, A guide for mental health and legal professionals, by Richard Gardner, M.D., 1995. An authoritative work on the Parental Alienation Syndrome.
SB-903 ---------- $30.00

Children Held Hostage, Dealing with Programmed and Brainwashed Children, by Stanley S. Clawar, Ph.D., C.C.S. and Brynne Rivlin, M.S.S., 1991. This book is approved by the American Bar Association.
SB-904 ---------- $50.00

Recognizing Child Abuse, by Douglas Besharov, Ph.D., a resident scholar of the American Enterprise Institute. A comprehensive guide to recognizing, preventing, and handling child abuse and neglect.
SB-905 ---------- **$12.00**

The Book of David, How Preserving Families Can Cost Children's Lives, by Richard Gelles, 1996. A convincing and dramatic book about the flaws of the child welfare system.
HB-906 ---------- **$23.00**

Suggestions of Abuse, by Michael D. Yapko, Ph.D. 1994. A book about true and false memories of childhood sexual trauma.
HB-907 ---------- **$22.00**

The Abuse Excuse—And Other Cop-Outs, by noted lawyer Alan Dershowitz, 1994. Sob stories and evasions of responsibility.
HB-908 ---------- **$23.00**

True and False Accusations of Sex Abuse, by Richard A. Gardner, M.D., 1992. A guide for legal and mental health professionals.
HB-909 ---------- **$45.00**

VIDEOS

Children: The Experts on Divorce, by Elizabeth Hickey, MSW 1994. The children speak from their own experience of going through their parents' divorce. A CRC-award winning video prepared by CRC's National Parent Education Director.
V101 ---------- **$25.00**

Don't Forget The Children, by the Dallas, Texas Association of Young Lawyers. A CRC award-winning video that provides information on co-parenting in the event of divorce.
V102 ---------- **$20.00**

Psychotherapeutic & Legal Approaches To Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS), by Richard A. Gardner, M.D. An in-depth discussion of ways that parents can alienate the child against the other parent.
V103 ---------- **$25.00**

REPORTS

UPDATED 1997, Interference with Access (Visitation) as a Tort. Not a frequent remedy, but one that may be available.
R101 ---------- **$10.00**
Send for a list of other reports.

PINS AND BUTTONS

The famous "Children First" pin. 8 colors, with figures of seven children standing on a field of green with logo "Children First." Two prongs. 3/4" high, 1-1/2" wide.
P101 ---------- **$8.00**

Button created by Patti Diroff that says "Child support is more than a check, it's being a parent." With CRC logo, including children's faces. 4 colors, round, 2-1/4" diameter.
B202 ---------- **$2.00**

T-SHIRTS

CRC 4-color t-shirts say "Help Stop Crime, Give Children 2 Parents" Specify size: child S, M, L; Adult S, M, L, XL. Specify color: white or blue
---------- $10 adults, $8 children

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CRC Encourages Platinum, Gold and Silver Life Members

We appreciate everyone who has worked for children and CRC. We thank all those who have enabled CRC to improve the lives of children and families. So many have given so much, of their time, efforts, and tax-deductible financial contributions.

For the year 2000—CRC's 15th anniversary—CRC is announcing three new levels of support of CRC. They are as follows:

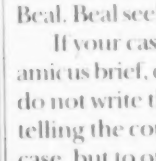
* A PLATINUM LIFE MEMBER is one who gives CRC $5,000 or more.
* A GOLD LIFE MEMBER is one who gives CRC $2,500 to $4,999.
* A SILVER LIFE MEMBER is one who gives CRC $1,000 to $2,499.
* A LIFE MEMBER is one who gives CRC $500 to $999.

During the past year, we have listed life members in all of our newsletter issues who have given CRC at least $500. Starting with our next issue we will list only **new** life members, as well as platinum, gold and silver life members. Those will be contributors starting January 1, 2000.

Anyone who has contributed to CRC in the past may increase the donation to reach any of the life member levels. **If you are unsure about your previous donation level, contact CRC, and we would be glad to let you know. Thank you.**

Family Facts

Photocopy and distribute the "Family Facts" on page 20! Use as hand-outs when visiting the Legislature, disseminating information to the courts or the media, or as a resource for testimony and Letters to the Editor. "Family Facts" is a regular feature of this newsletter. Send us your verified facts (with actual copies, sources and dates) to "Family Facts," CRC.



Order CRC Book and Make Money!

Order bulk copies (10 or more) of the still popular 1993 publication, *The Best Parent is Both Parents*, for only $4 a copy. Resell the copies for the list price of $10 each, and make a profit for you or your organization! Individual copies are $10.

Amicus Briefs May Be Available

CRC recently filed an amicus brief on appeal for CRC member Jeffrey Beal. Beal seeks joint custody of his children.

If your case is on appeal, and you would like CRC to consider writing an amicus brief, contact CRC. CRC cannot handle cases at the trial level, and we do not write the main appeal brief. An amicus brief is a supplemental brief, telling the court why this case is of significance not only to the parties in the case, but to other children and families as well. We generally need 30 to 60 days before the filing deadline.

CRC Wants Chapters in Every State

CRC WANTS CHAPTERS IN EVERY STATE! GO CRC!!

For development of chapters in states that do not yet have any CRC chapters:

Re: states out west, contact CRC Board Member from the chapters Terry Cady in Illinois.

Re: states in the south, contact Board Advisor from the chapters Fred Wall in North Carolina.

Re: states in the east, contact Board Advisor from the chapters Margaret Wuwert in Ohio.

See their names and numbers on page 26.

For states in the east, you may also contact Ron Pilcher, 513/755-2932.

Join CRC, then ask for a copy of the 100-page CRC booklet that explains everything you need to know about affiliation. The cost of the booklet is $15.00.

Updated Parenting Directory Available

CRC's new "International Parenting Directory" (8th edition) is ready—in hardcopy and disc.

Based on replies from groups in the previous directory we wrote to, the new directory will contain listings of about 1,000 organizations across the country, and abroad, that work in areas such as custody, access (visitation), and parental kidnapping.

The Directory, an invaluable networking tool, is available in hardcopy or disc for $12 for CRC members, and $15 for non-members. CRC thanks Paul Robinson and Ed Mudrak for their hard work in updating this Directory.

The hardcopy is updated once a year; the disc is updated frequently. Order from CRC and specify which version you want—hardcopy or disc.

Family Facts

Congressmembers Find Children Do Better with Dads and Moms in Their Lives

In the introduction to The Responsible Fatherhood bill (S.1364) introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Peter Dominici (D-NM) and Sen. Evan Bayh (R-IN), it states that

1) nearly 25 million children in the U.S., or 36 percent of all such children, live apart from their biological father;
2) 60 percent of couples who divorce have at least 1 child;
3) the number of children living with only a mother increased from just over 5,000,000 in 1960 to 17,000,000 in 1999, and between 1981 and 1991 the percentage of children living with only 1 parent increased from 19 percent to 25 percent;
4) 40 percent of children who live in households without a father have not seen their father in at least 1 year and 50 percent of such children have never visited their father's home;
5) children who live without contact with their biological father are, in comparison to children who have such contact:
   A) 5 times more likely to live in poverty
   B) more likely to bring weapons and drugs into the classroom;
   C) twice as likely to commit crime;
   D) twice as likely to drop out of school;
   E) twice as likely to be abused;
   F) more likely to commit suicide;
   G) more than twice as likely to abuse alcohol or drugs; and
   H) more likely to become pregnant as teenagers;
6) violent criminals are overwhelmingly males who grew up without fathers and the best predictor of crime in a community is the percentage of absent father households;
7) compared with Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Germany, and Italy, the U.S. has the highest percentage of single parent households with dependent children;
8) 70 percent of U.S. citizens believe that the most significant family or social problem facing the U.S. is the physical absence of the father from the home, resulting in a lack of involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of children;
9) States should be encouraged, not restricted, from implementing programs that provide for support for responsible fatherhood, promote marriage, and increase the incidence of marriage;
10) there is a social need to reconnect children and fathers;
11) the promotion of responsible fatherhood and encouragement of two-parent families should not-
   A) denigrate the standing or parenting efforts of single mothers; or
   B) lessen the protection of children from abusive parents; but should increase the chance that children will have two caring parents to help them grow up healthy and secure;
12) for the future of the U.S. and the future of our children, Congress, States, and local communities should assist parents to become more actively involved in their children's lives; and
13) child support is an important means by which a parent can take financial responsibility for a child and emotional support is an important means by which a parent can take social responsibility for a child.

This bill is the Senate counterpart to the "Fathers Count" bill passed by the House in 1999. Write to Sens. Dominici and Bayh thanking them for introducing S.1364; write to your Senators urging support for a responsible fatherhood bill. Write all Senators at

Senator _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Girls More Likely to Get Pregnant Without Dads in Their Lives

More than a quarter of American children—nearly 17 million—do not live with their father. Girls without a father in their life are two and a half times more likely to get pregnant and 53 percent more likely to commit suicide. Boys without a father in their life are 63 percent more likely to run away and 37 percent as likely to abuse drugs. Both girls and boys are twice more likely to drop out of high school, twice as likely to end up in jail and nearly four times more likely to need help for emotional or behavioral problems.

—U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), press release, March 26, 1999

Mothers Without Custody

There are now 2 million mothers without custody of their children. These moms are hurting. They need to fully share in the upbringing of their children whenever possible.

From Volume 14, Number 3, Winter 1999/2000, *Speak Out for Children*, newsletter of the Children's Rights Council
300 "I" Street N.E., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20002-4389 phone (202) 547-6227

Chapter News

Access Centers in D.C. Area

CRC is expanding operations in the Washington, D.C. area. A new Child Access Transfer Center has opened in Fairfax County, Virginia. This Center will be operated in cooperation with the Circuit Court of Fairfax County. Fairfax is the largest county in the Metropolitan DC area.

The CRC Baltimore Chapter will open a Child Access Transfer Center in cooperation with the Circuit Court in Baltimore County.

In keeping with CRC tradition there will be no fees to parents for these services. We continue to use our volunteers at these Centers.

A Supervised Child Access Center will also open in Prince George's County, Maryland. This Center is in cooperation with the Circuit Court of Prince George's County. Although some paid staff is required to provide security at the supervised access center, there is no cost to parents. CRC received an access grant from the state of Maryland to provide this service.

CRC has developed a tool kit to help chapters start Child Access Transfer Centers. If you want a copy, please contact Al Ellis at CRC Headquarters.

New CRC Coordinators in Massachusetts and Texas

Massachusetts

Brumber and granddaughter

Carolyn Brumber, a grandmother who lives in the Boston area, is CRC's new Massachusetts coordinator. Carolyn had difficulty getting to seeing her grandchildren because of a custody battle between her son and daughter. Her main concern is "how divorce will affect the children." She will focus on obtaining shared parenting for children and families in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts chapter president is Steve Carrier, who recommended Carolyn for the coordinator position.

Texas

Diana Buffington is CRC's new coordinator for Texas. Diana is former state coordinator in Alaska, but she moved to Texas, because her husband obtained a job in Dallas. Diana was born and raised in Texas, so going there is "returning home." She got into the movement because of her husband Ron's non-custodial status with his son. While in Alaska, Diana chaired the Task Force on Alaska Family Law Reform, and was in the process of working for new financial child support guidelines, based on the CRC guideline when she left, and had proposed legislation on mediation and kinship care. She testified at several hearings in the Alaska Welfare Reform Act. She is active in the Republican Party in Texas.

If you are considering marriage, or going through divorce, you must read...

From Courtship To Courtroom

What Divorce Law Is Doing To Marriage...

by Jed H. Abraham

Attorney Jed H. Abraham explodes the myths about divorce in this candid, often caustic, book about the ways in which divorce laws are unfair to men. Drawing upon his extensive experience, Abraham sketches a compelling picture of what men can expect during court battles over alimony, custody, child support, division of property, and charges of domestic violence. Forget your illusions about amicable separation and fair divorce laws, says Abraham, as he details the economic and emotional hardships that beset many men during, and long after, the divorce process.

But **From Courtship to Courtroom** is also a helpful geide to men who want to avoid the drain of divorce. At first suggesting that they not marry at all, but also acknowledging that they will, Abraham warns men to prepare before marriage for the worst that might happen if the knot unravels. He makes concrete, feasible suggestions about selecting the right mate, pre-nuptial agreements, spousal bank accounts, and how to change the law. Any man considering marriage, or going through divorce, will want to read this book.

Jed H. Abraham practices family law and mediation in Evanston, Illinois. He holds a B.A. (Phi Beta Kappa) from the University of California at Berkeley, an M.B.A. from New York University, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He is the principal author of Illinois' joint custody legislation and has published widely on family law reform in academic and professional journals and in the popular media.

Available from: Bloch Publishing Co., Inc. • 37 West 26th Street, 9th Floor • New York, NY 10010
Phone: 212-532-3977 • E-mail: Blochpub@worldnet.att.net • Website: http://www.Blochpub.com

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Court Cases

U.S. Supreme Court to Decide Grandparents Case

The U.S. Supreme Court will soon decide whether paternal grandparents can have access (visitation) with their grandchildren despite the objections of the mother and the mother's new husband, the step-father, who has adopted the children.

Tommie Granville and Brad Troxel lived together sporadically before Tommie stopped seeing Brad in June 1991, while she was pregnant with their second child, Isabelle. After Tommie and Brad's separation, Brad's parents saw Natalie and Isabelle only during Brad's limited visitations.

Brad committed suicide on May 13, 1992. At first the girls continued to visit the Troxels regularly, but their mother soon decided to stop visitation. In December, 1993, the Troxels filed a petition to obtain visitation rights with their grandchildren. In 1995, the trial court entered a decree ordering visitation one weekend a month, and one week during the summer.

(The grandparents have been married for 35 years. The grandfather was a member of the nationally known musical group, the Fleetwoods, in the 1960's).

The grandparents maintained visitation until the Court of Appeals in July 1997 reversed the visitation order, holding that non-parents lack "standing" to seek visitation unless a custody action is pending. The Troxels never sought custody; only access.

The Washington Supreme Court reversed the lower court's holding that the grandparents lacked "standing", but held that grandparents visitation rights were unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court is expected to address the issue of whether grandparent visitation laws are constitutional, especially in the face of a parent's objection. The court may also have to decide whether permitting grandparent visitation over an adoptive parent's objection infringes on the integrity of the adoptive family.

Note: By 1993, after several years of efforts, every state in the U.S. had adopted a statue providing specifically for grandparent visitation or generally for visitation rights of third parties over the objection of the parents.

State courts, however, are divided over whether such statutes are constitutional, especially if there is an intact family objecting to the access. Washington joined Tennessee and Georgia courts in declaring that their grandparents visitation statutes violated the U.S. Constitution. In contrast, Kentucky, Utah, New Hampshire and Indiana have applied a "best interests of the child" test.

In King v. King, 828 S.W. 2d 630 (Ky, 1992), cert. denied, 113 S. Ct. 378 (1992), the U.S Supreme Court denied a request to review a Kentucky Supreme Court decision that generously interpreted the Kentucky grandparents statute. In that case, a paternal grandfather was allowed by the court to visit with his grandchild twice weekly against the wishes of the child's married, fit and natural parents.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision not to hear King and thus to allow the Kentucky Statute to stand as constitutional is an indication that the Court may allow the Troxels access.

Another indication is that 75% of older Americans are now grandparents, including several members of the Supreme Court.

Further note: Almost all CRC members we have polled favor children's access to grandparents, regardless of the parents' marital situation.

Alimony Can be Reduced if Other Parent's Imputed Income Increases

A trial court that imputed income to a divorced woman for child support purposes should also have done so in relation to her ex-husband's alimony obligation, the Virginia Court of Appeals held June 29. The case involved a non-custodial mother who, shortly after the divorce, completed job training that enhanced her earning capacity. The judge ruled that she was voluntarily underemployed, and increased her child support obligation, but he refused to reduce the amount of alimony that her ex-husband paid, on the basis that the completion of training was not a "very dramatic" change in circumstances. However, the appeals court said the ex-husband should not have been required to provide anything beyond a material change in circumstances in order to get the reduction in alimony.

(VA Ct. App., No. 0259-98-3, 6/29/99)

Non-Dad Can get Support Reimbursement When Real Father Shows Up

A divorced man is entitled to reimbursement of the child support he paid his ex-wife, after he found that another man was actually the father of the three children involved, the Colorado Court of Appeals ruled October 28. The appeals court said that the Uniform Parentage Act permitted such a reimbursement claim by a stepfather against the biological father. During the divorce proceedings, Donald Smith petitioned for a declaration as to the paternity of the three children. Loretta Smith sought successfully to have the children's putative father, Charles Ames joined as a party. When Ames was determined to be the father, the trial court then decided that Donald Smith could recover the support previously provided for the children. The appeals court rejected Ames' argument that Donald Smith failed to file his claim within a statutory two-year period. The court said that Loretta Smith told Donald in October 1993 that he was not the father, but he did not know the true father's identity until Loretta named Charles during the divorce proceedings.

(In re Smith, Colo. Ct. App., No. 97CA2202, 10/28/99)

Parents Cannot Mutually Decide What Is in the Best Interests of Their Children

A divorced couple may not establish their own arrangements for modification of custody if those arrangements differ from the statutory rules, the Minnesota Supreme Court held Sept. 2. The case involved parents, Ronald Prauenshuh

and Sherrie Giese, who were divorced in 1994. They agreed that there would be joint custody, but Giese would have sole physical custody. The agreement also provided that, if either parent were to move a distance greater than 50 miles away, this would be a substantial change in circumstances. In this situation, custody would change, based on the child's best interests, the parents agreed. In 1996 Giese accepted a new job in a Minnesota city 150 miles away. Frauenshuh sought a change in custody on the basis of the earlier agreement. However, the trial court refused to apply the parties' best interests standard, and said that the child's emotional and physical well-being would not be thwarted by the mother's move. It therefore permitted her to move with the child. The Supreme Court upheld the decision of the trial court, saying that only when joint physical custody is granted can the parents set the rules for modifying custody.

(Frauenshuh v. Giese (Frauenshuh), Minn., No. C8-98-444, 9/2/99).

Editor's Note: Under this ruling, the parents may not mutually decide what is in the best interests of their children. The Divorce Industry at work!

Father's Parental Rights May Not be Terminated for Child He Didn't Know Existed

A man's parental rights to a child he did not know existed may not be terminated through an adoption without his consent, the Oklahoma Supreme Court held Sept. 16. The case involved an unwed mother who failed to inform the father of her pregnancy, and withheld his identity from the agency who chose to place her child in an out-of-state adoption. The Supreme Court upheld a lower court dismissal of the adoption petition, saying that the father's due process rights were denied when he was deprived of notice of the pregnancy and birth, and was not given the opportunity to assert his parental rights.

(In re Baby Boy W., Okla., No. 91604, 9/16/99).

Except for the grandparents case, the above cases are summarized from Family Law Reporter. They appear here by permission of the publisher, The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

Book Reviews

From Courtship to Courtroom: What Divorce Law is Doing to Marriage

by Jed H. Abraham
Available from CRC

169 pages. Softback, $15 Bloch Publishing Company, Inc., New York; ISBN: 0-8197-0692-2

This new book presents a chilling picture of the ways in which today's divorce laws make life miserable for men: alimony, custody battles, child support, attorney's fees and false domestic violence accusations.

CRC finds that today's divorce laws make a chilling picture for many women, but Abraham, a lawyer and mediator, focuses on men. "From the moment your wife files for divorce," Abraham says, "the State, acting through the court, will assert authority over everything you own," in order to distribute a major share of your property to her. Moreover, with most courts awarding custody of the children to the mother, "your ex will acquire primary parental authority to live with your children and to determine their general development, including their health care, education, and religious training. You may 'visit with them' on scheduled weekends."

"And that's just the beginning."

Abraham, who has a strong economics background, offers insights on the finances of divorce that are not present in other books. He shows just how economically devastating divorce can be. Both women and men can benefit from reading this book.

Note: About 10 years ago, Abraham was one of the first researchers to expose the errors in research by Lenore Weitzman. Abraham found contradictions in her methodology, which led him to believe that the huge disparities in standard of living post-divorce between fathers and mothers she postulated were not accurate. Other researchers found similar inconsistences, and eventually Weitzman admitted the errors. Abraham is also a major author of Illinois' joint custody legislation and has published widely on family law reform in academic and professional journals and in the popular media.

A Heart Full of Love

by Bette S. Margolis, Illustrated by Christie L. Cline
Available from CRC

80 pages, large type, illustrated, $15,
ISBN: 0-9676360-0-0

An 'Easy-Read' Book, published by American Psychiatric Press, Inc. Winner of the Guilded Quill Award for excellence in children's literature. For children ages 7–9

Some blurbs on the back cover explain the book:

"Children need to grieve the losses attendant to their parents' divorce. This book offers a beautiful way to begin the dialogue. I heartily recommend it.
—John Bradshaw, author, New York Times bestseller, "Bradshaw On: The Family."

"Real life is complicated for children of divorce. At last, a charming book that shows by example that it's o.k for a child with a loving heart to be open and receptive to new family members"
—Margorie Engel, Ph.D. president, Stepfamily Association of America

"If a child of divorce learns that you can't have too many adults who love you, and it's o.k. to love them in return, then this book has not only helped him or her through divorce recovery, but it has also provided some valuable lessons in empathy, understanding, acceptance and above all, love."
—Andrea Engber, Director, National Organization of Single Mothers, Syndicated Columnist, "Single With Children."

Congressional Update

Here are some important bills and resolutions in Congress affecting families. Write to your House member or Senator to let them know what you think of a particular bill. They do not get enough mail on issues of concern to CRC members. So contact them! Let them know what sort of legislation you would like to see passed!

Write

Senator (name)
Washington, D.C. 20510

or

Representative (name)
Washington, D.C. 20515

House Bills

Andrews

H.R. 3315, Reducing the Effects of Abuse and Domestic Violence on Youth, the READY Act. Introduced November, 1999 by Rep. Sue Kelly and co-sponsored by Reps. Connie Morella, Nancy Johnson, Carolyn Maloney and Judy Biggert. The bill aims to reduce the impact on children who witness or experience domestic violence by among other measures asking Congress to adopt language that "it is not in the best interest of the child to force joint custody in cases where there is a history of domestic violence" and that it is "not in the best interest of a child to make so called "friendly parent" provisions a factor when there is abuse against a parent or child."

According to Rep. Kelly, the READY Act "amends the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Statute to provide a defense to women who flee across state lines to escape domestic violence or sexual assault." Rep. Kelly further stated: "Domestic violence often escalates during separation and divorce, and visitation is often used as an opportunity for abuse." The bill also notes: "The need for supervised visitation centers far exceeds the number of available programs, resulting in courts ordering unsupervised visitation and endangering parents and children."

The bill contains unsubstantiated charges that abusive fathers seek joint custody, ignoring whether abusive mothers also seek joint custody, or whether most people who seek joint custody are good, decent Americans who love their children. The bill ignores the fact if most children were granted shared parenting of their moms and dads, most problems affecting children would decrease, including lower crime and drug rates, higher school performance, less family violence, less suicide among children, and higher childhood self-esteem.

Also, the bill ignores research described in a New York Times News Service article November 23, 1999, stating that in areas from Vermont to Colorado, approximately one quarter of defendants charged in domestic violence cases are now women. FBI Statistics reported by the Heritage Foundation and syndicated columnist Kathleen Parker find that both women and men commit crimes against children. Violence tends to occur in situations involving alcohol and drug abuse, thus lending a gender-neutral coloration to the issue of family violence.

Congress must demand objective national research on child and family abuse and fund programs which have the well being of children as their real purpose.

H.R. 521. Denial of Passports to Noncustodial Parents in Cases of Nonpayment of Child Support. Introduced by Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ). Referred to House International Relations Committee and the House Subcommittee for International Operations and Human Rights. It is a bill that would deny passports to noncustodial parents subject to State arrest warrants in cases of nonpayment of child support awards.

Write to Chairman Benjamin A. Gilman, (R-NY), House International Relations Committee and Chairman Christopher Smith (R-NJ), House Subcommittee for International Operations and Human Rights, Washington, D.C. 20515, asking that passports should also be denied to individuals subject to state arrest warrants in violation of custody and access/visitation orders.

H.R. 816. Child Support Enforcement Act. Introduced by Rep. Christopher Cox (R-CA). Referred to House Ways and Means Committee. It is a bill to require a parent who is delinquent in child support to include his unpaid obligation in gross income, and to allow custodial parents a bad debt collection for unpaid child support payments.

H.R. 833. Sec. 149 sets forth duties of the bankruptcy trustee under Chapters 7 and 13 regarding a claim against an individual debtor for the collection of child support, notifying the claim holder and appropriate State child support agency of the debtor's location. Sec.152 denies automatic stay protection to withholding of income payment for payment of certain domestic support obligations and for the commencement or continuation of a proceeding: (1) concerning child custody or visitation; (2) alleging domestic violence; or (3) seeking dissolution of marriage (except to the extent the proceeding concerns property of the estate).

Introduced by Rep. George Gekas (R-PA) and passed in the House; to be considered by the Senate in January.

H.R.1488. Compassion for Children and Child Support Enforcement Act of 1999. introduced by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL). Referred in the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and Social Security Act to repeal provisions relating to the State enforcement of child support obligations and the disbursement of such support and to require the Internal Revenue Service to collect and disburse such support through wage withholding and other means.

H.R. 1869. Sponsored by Rep. Sue Kelly (D-NY), the House on November 10 passed the Stalking Prevention and Victim Protection Act, which would amend Title 18 of the U.S. Code and broaden the definition of stalking in interstate or foreign commerce to include those who act "with the intent to injure or harass" another. The bill would not take the place of state anti-stalking statutes but would provide for federal prosecution where a stalker threatens by telephone, mail, or e-mail. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL), one of the sponsors, told

the House (See Congressional Record, November 19, 1998, page H11910), that "we have over 1 million women in this country who are being stalked, we have about 400,000 men, and we have hundreds of thousands of children who are now being stalked because of the Internet." **The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.**

By expanding the definition of stalking to include "harassment," a charge frequently leveled by one parent against another during divorce, the bill will almost certainly lead to greater abuse of court restraining orders by vindictive parents. Under the new bill, no clear guidelines are given for the removal of restraining orders.

H.R. 1248. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), sponsored by Rep. Connie Morella (R-MD), would increase appropriations authorized under the current act. The United States Supreme Court recently announced that it would review the constitutionality of VAWA. H.R. 357, another VAWA bill, sponsored by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), would significantly expand the scope of VAWA and includes provisions for an anti-joint custody resolution. A related new bill, HR 3315, recently introduced is discussed above.

HR. 2855. The Child Support Reserve Trust Act was introduced in September 1999 by Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ) to amend the Social Security Act to require that anticipated child support be held in trust on the sale or refinancing of certain real property of an obligated parent.

This bill includes the following provision: On any sale or refinancing by a person of any real property in the State against which a lien for amounts of overdue support owed by the person has ever arisen, without regard to whether such lien has ever been extinguished, the State reserve trust unit shall:

(A) withhold the net proceeds of the person from the sale or refinancing;

(B) apply the net proceeds withheld under (A) to any overdue support owed by the person;

(C) determine the anticipated future child support of the person;

(D) hold in trust, for the benefit of the child or children for whom the person has a support obligation, an amount equal to the lesser of:

(i) the anticipated future child support determined under (C) and

(ii) the net proceeds held under (A) as reduced by the any application of such proceeds under (B) and;

(E) distribute to the person any amounts not held in trust under (D).

The term "anticipated future child support" means the present value of each child support payment that will come due under the support obligation of the person, assuming that the support obligation will finally cease solely because the child has attained an age requiring the termination of the support obligation.

Senate Bills

Biden

S.51 Title III Study of Child Custody Laws in Domestic Violence Cases. Authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to States and Indian tribal governments to enable them to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements to assist public or private non-profit entities in establishing and operating supervised visitation centers for purposes of facilitating supervised visitation and visitation exchange of children by and between parents. Requires that priority be given to States that consider domestic violence in making a custody decision and require findings on the record. Introduced by Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE). Currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sec.302. Directs the Attorney General to study and report to Congress on Federal and State laws relating to child custody, including the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980, and their effect on child custody cases in which domestic violence is a factor. Requires study to examine the burdens and risks encountered by victims of domestic violence arising from compliance with the full faith and credit (and judicial jurisdiction) requirements of that Act.

CRC recommends that you write to Sen. Biden and to your own U.S. senators urging that neutral drop-off and pick-up of children sites should be given even higher priority in S. 51, Title III, because more unwed, separating and divorced parents have communication problems than are engaged in violence.

CRC recommends that you state that Sec. 32 of the proposed law should direct the Attorney General to also report on the frequency of use and effect of false allegations of abuse in the midst of custody or access/visitation battles, which have been noted by the American Bar Association and other organizations. We must deal with false abuse accusations in order to more fully help children who really have been abused, as officials in Texas and other states have decided.

S.1033. Child Support Penalty Fairness Act. introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Referred to Senate Finance Committee. It is a bill to amend Title IV of the Social Security Act to coordinate the penalty for the failure of a State to operate a State child support disbursement unit with the alternative penalty procedure for failures to meet data processing requirements.

Write to Sen. Feinstein and your own U.S. senators urging that the penalty for failure to implement the full faith and credit interstate access/visitation law should result in financial penalties to the state.

Important Phone Numbers

House Judiciary Committee
(202) 224-4151

House International Relations Committee
(202) 225-5021

House Ways and Means Committee
(202) 225-3625

Senate Finance Committee
(202) 224-5225

Senate Judiciary Committee
(202) 225-3951

National Affiliate Organizations and Chapters

National Affiliate Organizations

Mothers Without Custody (MWOC)
Jennifer Isham, coordinator
website only: http://www.motherswithoutcustody.org

Stepfamily Association of America (SAA)
Marguerite Engel, president
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650 J Street, Suite 205
Lincoln, NE 68508
402/477-7837
1-800/735-0329
email: StepFam@aol.com
website: www.stepfam.org
Joint membership in SAA and CRC: $35.00 for the first year

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